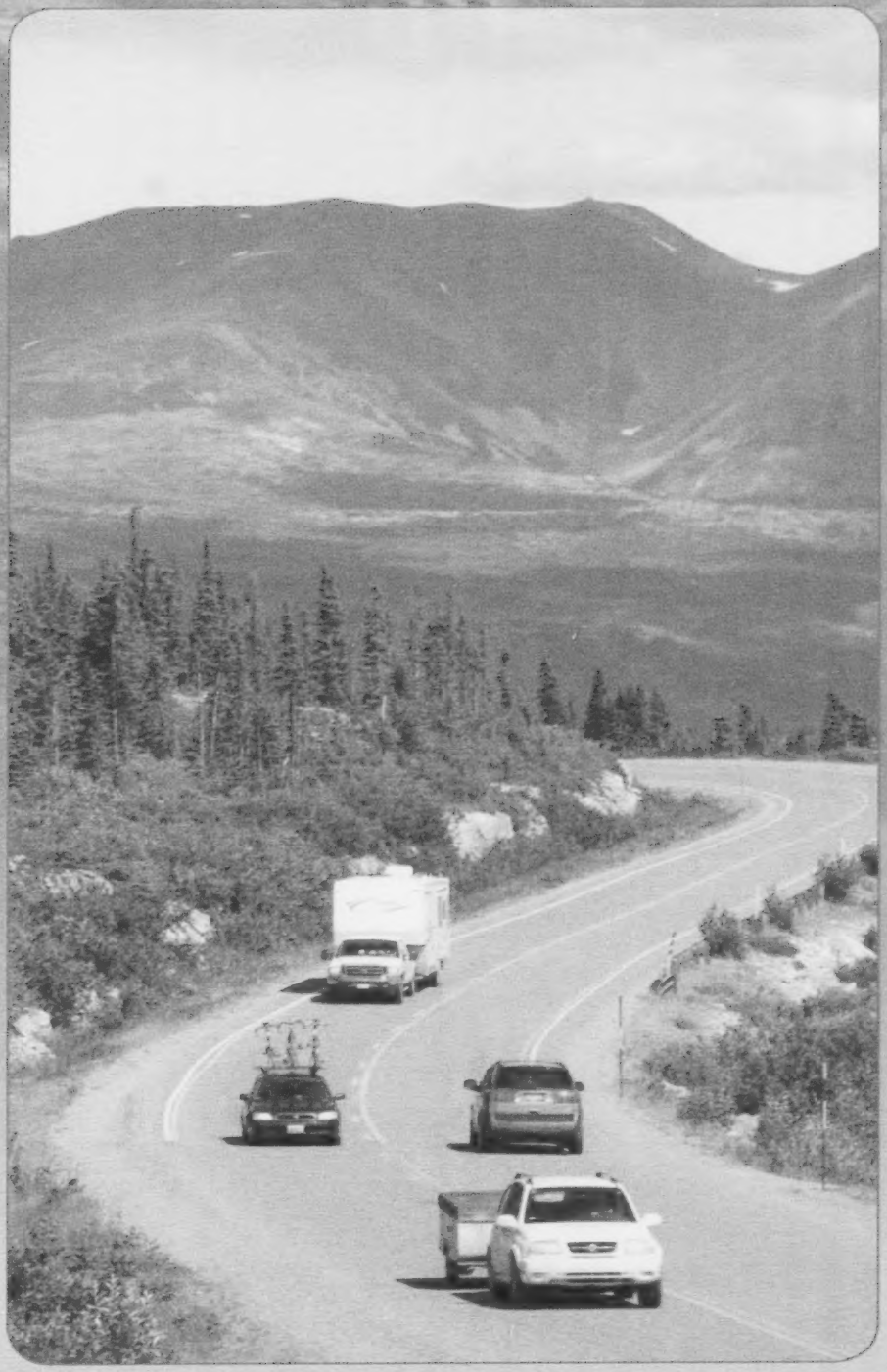
Yukon Driver's Basic Handbook
Cars and Light Trucks



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Statement of Limitation

Yukon has prepared the *Yukon Driver's Basic Handbook: Cars and Light Trucks* from material in the B.C. *Learn to Drive Smart Book* to help you study for a Yukon driver's licence. The Handbook is not intended to take the place of professional training. Government of Yukon does not claim that a person who studies the *Yukon Driver's Basic Handbook* will be successful in getting the desired licence. Government of Yukon is not responsible for any consequences that may result from the use of this handbook.

Throughout this guide, references are made to acts and regulations that govern driving in Yukon. These references are written in plain language to help you understand their impact on individual drivers. If there are differences between the material in this handbook and any of these acts or regulations, the acts and regulations apply.

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In keeping with Government of Yukon's goal to protect the environment, *Yukon Driver's Basic Handbook: Cars and Light Trucks* is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

introduction

This guide is designed for new drivers and for experienced drivers who are new to Yukon, re-taking a test, or brushing up on their driving skills.

For both new and experienced drivers, this guide will help you develop and apply smart driving skills. It contains the basic information you need to know to help you drive safely. It will also help you prepare for the sign and knowledge tests and for the Class 5 road test.

New drivers

As a new driver, you are part of a high-risk group. This guide provides driving strategies to help keep you, and others, safe.

Experienced drivers

Use this guide to review Yukon's driving rules and regulations if you have been licensed to drive in another jurisdiction, if you are re-taking a test, or if you want to brush up on your skills. This guide also provides information on safe driving practices.

Getting the most from this guide

This guide is divided into 10 chapters. Depending on what you need to know, and whether you are a new or experienced driver, you may decide to read and study all of it, or just parts of it.

On Yukon roads you may not see everything talked about in this guide. You need to learn some information, for example, particular road signs, what they mean and what they look like, for when you are driving in other parts of Canada.

Organization

This guide is designed to help you quickly find the information you need. Check the index at the back to find specific topics. Each chapter provides you with useful information to help you become a safe, competent driver.

Chapters 1 to 5: Developing your smart driving skills

The first five chapters cover the basics to help you develop your smart driving skills. Each chapter provides important information that will help keep you and others safe on the road.

- **Chapter 1**: common choices that every driver makes.
- **Chapter 2**: how your vehicle works and how to keep it running well.
- **Chapter 3**: signs, signals and road markings you'll see while driving.
- **Chapter 4**: rules of the road that you need to know to drive safely.
- **Chapter 5**: driving strategies to help you become a skilled driver and avoid problems on the road.

Chapters 6 to 8: Applying your smart driving skills

These chapters will help you apply what you've learned.

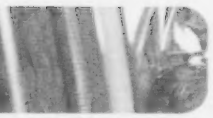
- **Chapter 6:** how to safely share the road with all road users.
- **Chapter 7**: how to overcome negative influences that affect driving.
- **Chapter 8**: challenging driving conditions and dealing with emergencies.

Chapters 9 and 10: Yukon references and resources

The last two chapters tell you how to get and keep your Yukon driver's licence, and where you can find more information. You will not be tested on this material.

- **Chapter 9**: how to get your driver's licence through the Graduated Driver's Licence program.
- **Chapter 10**: information about your Yukon driver's licence, including responsibilities and penalties.

1 you in the driver's seat



in this chapter

- Be a thinking driver
- Be fit to drive
- Make good decisions
  - keep learning
  - plan your driving
  - predict the scene
  - think for yourself
- Take responsibility
  - you, the driver
  - your passengers
  - other road users

Driving gives you the freedom to get around but it also involves certain risks. When you're in the driver's seat, you need to be well rested and have a clear mind to focus on the task of driving, make good driving decisions and look out for the safety of others. This chapter will help you think about the choices you can make as a driver to help keep yourself and others safe.

Be a thinking driver

You in the driver's seat – part 1

You've had your driver's licence for some time now, and you've become a pretty good driver. This morning you need to take the car in by 9 a.m. for an oil change, and then pick up a friend who lives in the country. You both need to be back in town by noon. You're not sure if you have enough time.

As you were leaving the house, you had an argument with your roommate. Now you're feeling angry and pressed for time.

You have to make many choices as a driver. You have to choose the best route to get to your destination, and decide how much time you need to get there. You have to make decisions about the safety of your passengers, especially if you're caught in a dangerous situation. You have to decide how much risk to take. You also need to make sure you can focus on driving before you get behind the wheel.

A thinking driver puts safety first. Smart driving is about making choices that help keep you and others safe. The choices you make determine what kind of driver you will be.

A thinking driver chooses to:

- be fit to drive
- make good decisions
- take responsibility.

Be fit to drive

You in the driver's seat – part 2

It usually takes you 25 minutes to drive across town to the garage. When you leave home, it's 8:45 a.m. To make matters worse, the traffic is heavy, slowing you down even more. You find yourself swearing under your breath. You're also getting angrier about what your roommate said. You feel so frustrated that you notice you're having trouble concentrating on your driving.

What choice would you make?

Focus on your driving? ◀ or ▶ ***Focus on the argument?***

You need to be in good shape to drive: alert and able to focus. Feeling angry or frustrated can cloud your judgment and slow down your reaction time.

You also need to avoid driving if you have an injury or illness that makes it hard for you to think clearly or quickly. Never drive when you are overtired. Even if you don't fall asleep, it's hard to respond quickly when you feel tired.

A driver who is impaired by drugs or alcohol is one of the worst driving hazards. This is because drugs and alcohol cause mental confusion and slow reaction times. Impaired drivers are much more likely to cause crashes that lead to serious injury or death.

Make good decisions

You have to make quick and accurate decisions when you drive. Will you be tempted to run a yellow light because you are in a hurry? Will you take a chance and drive after you've been drinking? Being a safe driver requires learning, planning, predicting and thinking for yourself.

Keep learning

You in the driver's seat – part 3

As you're driving, you spot a playground sign. You know you have to slow down, but you can't remember when the playground speed limits are in effect. The sign doesn't say. Is the playground speed limit in effect today as you are driving through the playground? You can't remember for certain.

What choice would you make next time?

Playground zones: 30 km/h limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk.
Signs are easy. I'll know what they mean when I see them.

Take the time to learn the rules of the road? or ***Not worry about it?***

You're reading this guide to learn about driving. This is the first step in becoming a good driver. You'll also spend time practising your driving skills, and may even take driver training from a professional to enhance your learning.

It's important to keep on learning even after you have your licence. It will take time for you to gain driving experience. You'll continually learn how to handle new driving situations and conditions, and will need to keep informed about changing vehicle technology. You'll also need to learn about changes that are made to the rules and regulations of the road.

Your skills as a driver will also change. As you gain experience, your skills will increase, but you may become overconfident and too automatic in your driving. Health problems could affect your ability to drive safely. Throughout your driving years, it's important for you to be honest with yourself about your skills and your readiness to drive.

Remember that driver education courses are available for beginning and experienced drivers.

Plan your driving

You in the driver's seat – part 4

Now you're definitely going to be late. You start worrying about missing your appointment for the oil change and being late to pick up your friend. You think about going faster.

What choice would you make?

Take a chance and speed? **or** ***Keep to the speed limit and plan your time better in the future?***

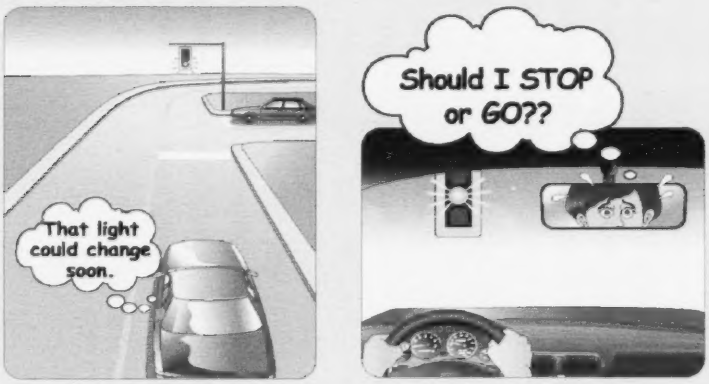
Part of good driving is planning ahead. This means planning enough time to get to your destination and knowing the shortest and safest route. It may mean equipping your vehicle for winter driving conditions. Can you think of other driving plans you may need to make?

Predict the scene

You in the driver's seat – part 5

You're driving too fast, and you forget to watch the traffic lights at the next intersection. Suddenly you find yourself coming up to the intersection and the light has already turned yellow.

What choice would you make next time?



Predict the scene well ahead? **or** ***Respond in a hurry?***

think about

What you would do if a child suddenly ran in front of your car. Could you stop in time?

As a driver, you need to be aware of cues in the driving environment: signs, signals and road markings. Paying attention to these cues helps you predict what could happen so you're prepared to respond.

It's also important to predict what other road users — pedestrians, other drivers, motorcycle riders and cyclists — might do. You can predict what might happen by carefully observing the driving scene around you. Being aware of what others around you are doing will help you to make better driving choices.

Think for yourself

You in the driver's seat – part 6

There's one more intersection before the garage. You have to turn left and there is no advance green arrow. You've sat through this light at other times because the traffic is always heavy here.

You become more frustrated as you wait to turn. Cars are lined up behind you with their left-turn signals flashing. The driver behind is starting to honk at you. You see a space but hesitate because you're not sure if the gap is big enough for you to make your turn.

What choice would you make?

Wait until you feel there's a safe gap? or ***Turn just to please other drivers?***

think about

What you will do when people honk their horn at you. What will you do if someone is tailgating you? Will you be tempted to speed just because other drivers around you are going faster then the speed limit?

Another part of making good choices is knowing yourself and understanding the influences that shape your driving.

Influences from other drivers — at times you will feel pressure from other drivers, and you'll have to decide what to do. Will you base your driving decisions on safety or will you allow other drivers to pressure you into doing something that might be unsafe?

Influences from the media — think of the images of cars and driving in ads and movies. Do these images generally promote safe driving?

Influences from peers — other people can influence your driving. Your friends may pressure you to drive faster or to race away from stoplights. You may think it will impress them if you turn up the volume on your car stereo system.

Take responsibility

Becoming licensed to drive means you are taking on new responsibilities for yourself, your passengers and other road users.

You, the driver

You in the driver's seat – part 7

You've been to the garage and now you're on your way to your friend's place. You're relieved because it seems you have enough time after all. Then you notice a large truck ahead that's going pretty slowly.

You hate passing trucks, especially on a narrow road like this one.

What choice would you make?

Slow down and stay behind the truck? ***Try to pass the truck even though you don't feel comfortable doing so?***

It's important to know and accept the limits of your driving abilities and your vehicle. You also need to take responsibility for developing your driving skills and ensuring your own safety.

Your passengers

crash fact

In 2007, more than one out of every three people killed in car crashes were not wearing a seatbelt.

Source: B.C. Traffic Collision Statistics, Police-attended injury and fatal collisions, 2007.

You in the driver's seat – part 8

You greet your friend as he climbs into the car. You're happy to see him, but you're surprised when he doesn't put on his seatbelt.

What choice would you make?

Ask him to buckle up? or ***Don't say anything because you're worried about offending him?***

You're responsible for the safety of your passengers. Make sure they are all wearing seatbelts. Children need special care and attention. Are they properly restrained with the right safety devices for their size? Remember, when you speed or take a chance at an intersection, you are putting your passengers as well as yourself in danger.

Smoking

It's now illegal to smoke in any vehicle when there are passengers under 18.

Children are especially vulnerable to second-hand smoke. Its harmful effects are greater in small enclosed places, such as vehicles, and can cause immediate and serious, long-lasting health problems.

Other road users

You in the driver's seat – part 9

You and your friend are almost back in town. As you approach an intersection, you notice a skateboarder heading along the sidewalk but near to a crosswalk.

What choice would you make?

Be cautious and slow down? ***Take a chance and keep going?***

You share the roadway with cars, trucks, trains, motorcyclists and cyclists. Pedestrians need to cross your driving path. Ambulances need you to move to the side of the road so they can respond to life-threatening situations. You never know when an animal may dart into your path.

Use the information in this guide to help you make responsible driving choices that can help prevent many dangerous situations.

2 you and your vehicle

in this chapter

- Adjust for safety
- Hand controls
- Foot pedals
- Control panel
- Pre-trip check
- Periodic check
- Driving and the environment

crash fact

Each year, on average, just over 70 per cent of people injured in collisions report a soft tissue injury such as whiplash. Many also had other injuries. A study of seven Canadian provinces found that 53 per cent of the drivers observed had head restraints that were so poorly adjusted that they would not protect the occupant from injury in a rear-end collision.

Source: MSN: Autos: Head Restraints: Saving Your Neck

In **chapter 1, you in the driver's seat**, you learned how important it is to make good choices when driving. It's also important to learn how your vehicle operates. Mastering the controls is one of the first steps to safe driving.

Adjust for safety

To drive safely, you need to be able to comfortably reach your vehicle's controls and see clearly around you. Before you start the engine, always adjust your seat, head restraint and mirrors. Never adjust your seat or the steering wheel while the vehicle is moving.

Seat

Your seat should be upright and in a position where you can:

- push the small of your back into the seat
- sit upright, never with a reclined seat
- with your right foot, reach the floor behind the brake pedal and still have a slight bend in your leg
- turn the steering wheel and keep your arms slightly bent
- reach all the controls
- keep your left foot comfortably on the space to the left of the brake pedal or clutch pedal.

You should also be at least 25 cm (10 in) away from the driver's airbag, which is located in the centre of the steering wheel.

Head restraints

Head restraints can help prevent soft tissue injuries such as whiplash. Whiplash is an injury to the neck, head and or shoulders after a snapping motion. Adjust your head restraint so the top is at least level with the top of your ears. Higher is even better. Your head restraint should be as close as possible to the back of your head. Closer head restraints can be twice as effective in preventing injuries than if they're set too far back.

Make sure your head restraint is adjusted to the height that is right for you.

Injuries can result if you are in a crash and your head restraint is not properly adjusted.

Seatbelts

There are two good reasons to wear your seatbelt:

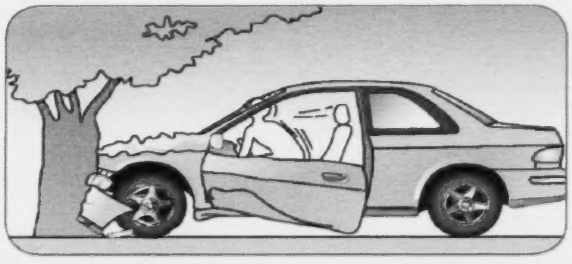
- Wearing your seatbelt significantly reduces your chance of serious injury or death in a crash.
- It's the law in Yukon — you will be fined for not wearing your seatbelt.

It's also your responsibility as a driver to make sure that all passengers are properly secured with seatbelts or child restraint systems.

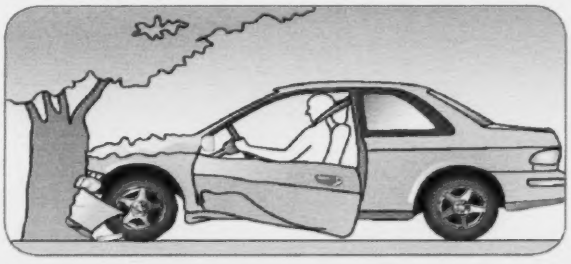
Adjust your seatbelt so that it fits snugly over your chest and low over your hips. Do not wear the shoulder strap under your arm or behind your back or with a reclined seat because putting this belt over the wrong part of the body could cause serious internal injuries if you are in a collision. Pregnant women should make sure the lap belt is snug and below the baby.

Even at low speeds, a crash forces a pressure of hundreds of kilograms against your body. If you are wearing a seatbelt, especially one with a lap belt and a shoulder strap, you're much less likely to be injured, knocked unconscious or ejected from the vehicle. Even if your vehicle catches fire or ends up in water, you have a better chance of getting out quickly if you stay conscious.

If you're not wearing a seat belt and your vehicle rolls over or if you're ejected, it's likely you'll be seriously injured or killed. Wearing your seatbelt can help prevent you from being ejected from the vehicle.



When your car stops suddenly, your body will continue to move forward at the same speed as your car was travelling. Without a seatbelt, your body will not stop until you hit the dashboard, windshield or something outside of the car.



Your lap belt holds you down, and your shoulder belt holds you back. Wearing a seatbelt causes you to stop when your vehicle stops.

Buckle up even on short trips, since most injuries and deaths occur close to home.

crash fact

Children are at risk of being in a collision every time they travel in a motor vehicle. Using child car seats and booster seats properly can reduce the risk of death by 71 per cent and the risk of injury by 67 per cent.

Child car seat safety

Every year in Yukon, young passengers are injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes.

The correct use of a Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS) approved child restraint system or booster seat will ensure a child is properly restrained and significantly reduce their risk of serious injury or death in a crash.

stage 1 — rear-facing

- Use from birth until **at least** one year old and 9 kgs (20 lbs).
- Place in the centre of the back seat.
- Never place a rear facing child restraint system in front of an active airbag.
- Keep rear-facing as long as possible.

stage 2 — forward-facing with tether

- Child must be over one year old and over 9 kgs (20 lbs).
- Up to **at least** 22 kgs (48 lbs).
- Place in back seat.
- Child may remain rear-facing if allowed by manufacturer's weight limits.
- Always use with a tether strap installed following manufacturer's directions.

stage 3 — booster seat

- Booster seats ensure proper seatbelt fit. They raise the child to correctly position the adult seatbelt across the bony structures of the chest and pelvis. It's safest if a child remains in a booster seat until they reach 145 cm (4'9") tall.
- Child must be over 22 kgs (48 lbs).
- Use until your child is 145 cm (4'9") tall and weighs at least 45kgs (100 lbs).
- Place in back seat and use with a lap/shoulder seatbelt.
- Position lap belt low over hip bones and shoulder belt over shoulder and in front of chest. Remember to properly adjust headrest.
- Do not use a booster seat with only a lap belt.

stage 4 — seatbelt only

- It's recommended that you keep children in the back seat until 12 years of age.
- The lap belt should fit low over the pelvic bones.
- Shoulder belt should fit over the shoulder and snug across the chest.
- Never put the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back. This could cause serious injury in a crash.
- Keep the seat in an upright position, not reclined. Seatbelts are designed for upright seating. A deeply reclined seat can cause a passenger to slide out from under the seatbelt in a crash.

warning!

Do not place rear-facing infant or child restraint systems in a passenger seat equipped with an active frontal airbag. Children in these seats could be killed or seriously injured if the airbag inflates.

Airbags

All new vehicles are equipped with airbags. They have been shown to reduce injuries and deaths in collisions. Airbags work by inflating and then deflating to reduce the shock of a collision. They do this very quickly; in less than a blink of an eye, an airbag inflates, and then begins to deflate again.

Airbags can be mounted in front of and beside the driver and front seat passenger. If your vehicle is equipped with airbags, you should position your seat so you're at least 25 cm (10") from the steering wheel. This allows room for the airbag to inflate and protects you from further injury.

Consult your owner's manual for safety precautions.

In a few instances, you may need to deactivate an airbag. You must contact Transport Canada to do this. For more information, call Transport Canada at 1-800-333-0371.

Airbags do not replace seatbelts. Always use your seatbelt even if your vehicle is equipped with airbags. Check your owner's manual for instructions about the airbags in your vehicle.

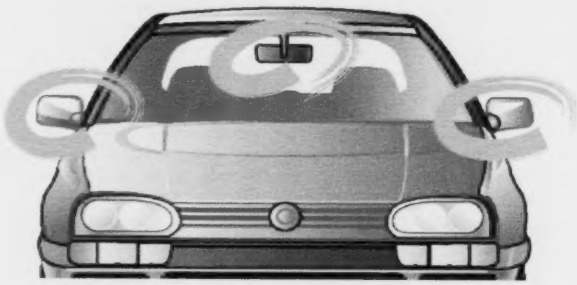
warning!

Some cars have convex mirrors. They provide a wider field of view but make things look smaller and farther away than they actually are. Check to see how accurate your vehicle's mirrors are.

Mirrors

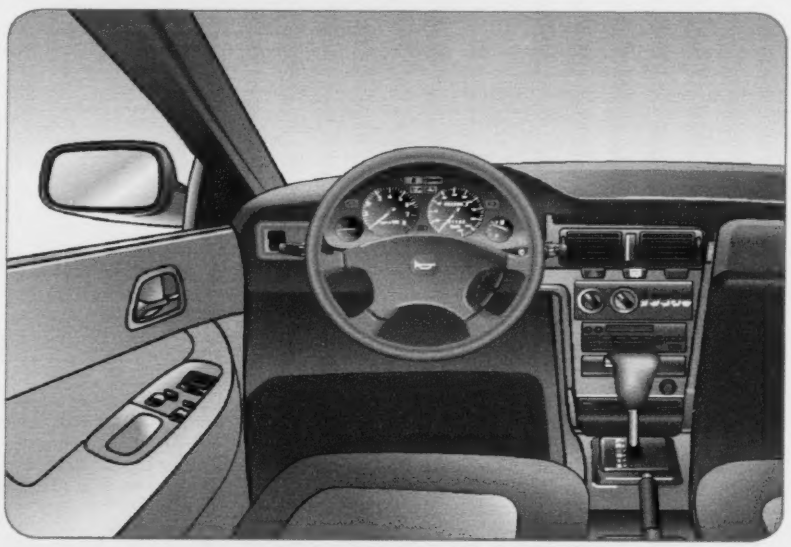
Make sure you can see all around your vehicle when driving:

- Adjust the rear-view mirror so you can see as much as possible behind you.
- Adjust your side-view mirrors to reduce the blind spots as much as possible. (Blind spots are the areas beside the vehicle that you cannot see in the mirrors.) Usually this means that only a slight part of the side of your vehicle is visible. See **chapter 5, see-think-do**, for more information about blind spots.



Hand controls

Now that your vehicle is adjusted to fit you, think about all the controls that your hands operate. Get to know how each control operates before you try to drive. Even when you are an experienced driver, you will need to get used to these controls each time you drive a different vehicle.



Make sure you know how to operate all the controls in each vehicle you drive. You may need to check the owner's manual.

Steering wheel

The steering wheel controls the direction of the vehicle by turning the front wheels. If your steering wheel is adjustable, make sure it's in the right position for you before you begin to drive.

Ignition switch

Get to know all the positions of the ignition switch in your vehicle. They may include:

- **Lock** — steering is locked and ignition is off
- **Off** — ignition is off but the steering is not locked
- **Acc** — ignition is off but some electrical parts may be used (e.g., radio)
- **On** — ignition is on
- **Start** — turn to this position to start the engine, then release the switch so that it returns to the On position.

warning!

Don't turn your vehicle's ignition switch to the "lock" position while it is still in motion. This can cause the steering to lock if you try to turn the steering wheel and you could lose control.

Gearshift lever

The gearshift lever lets you control the vehicle's transmission. There are two types of transmissions: automatic and standard. Both control the connection between the engine and the wheels.

An automatic transmission chooses the most efficient gear for you. In a vehicle with a standard transmission, the driver chooses the best gear. Using the best gear keeps the engine from stalling and allows it to operate as efficiently as possible for fuel economy.

A standard transmission is always used with a clutch. The gearshift is generally mounted on the floor or on the steering column. Standard transmissions are built in three-, four-, five- or six-speed models. Check your owner's manual when learning to use your vehicle's gearshift.

Comparing automatic and standard transmissions

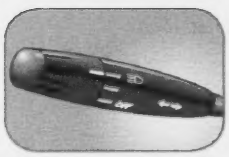
Gear	Automatic*	Standard*
P – Park	Use when starting the vehicle and when parked. Locks the transmission.	
R – Reverse	Use when backing up. Turns on reverse (white) lights.	Use when backing up. Turns on reverse (white) lights.
N – Neutral	If vehicle stalls while moving, use to restart the engine.	Use when vehicle is stopped or when starting the engine.
D – Drive	Use for normal forward driving.	
1 – First gear	Use when pulling heavy loads, going slowly or when going up or down very steep hills.	The lowest gear. Use it from a stopped position to speeds of 10 to 15 km/h. Use when pulling heavy loads or when going up or down very steep hills.
2 – Second gear	Use when pulling heavy loads or when going up or down very steep hills.	Use from speeds of 15 to 30 km/h, for hills and when driving on snow or ice.
3 – Third gear		Use for speeds between 30 to 60 km/h.
4 – Fourth gear		Use for highway speeds on 4-speed models.
5 – Fifth gear		Use for highway cruising on 5-speed models.
6 – Sixth gear		Use for highway cruising on 6-speed models.
O – Overdrive	Use at speeds of over 40 km/h to save fuel.	

* The speed guidelines are approximate and will depend on your vehicle.

Parking brake

This brake keeps the vehicle from moving when it's parked. Depending on your vehicle, you may have a foot or hand-operated brake. Make sure you fully apply the parking brake when parking and fully release it before moving.

The parking brake is sometimes called an emergency brake because it can be used to slow the vehicle if the foot brake fails. See **chapter 8, emergency strategies**, for more information on these situations.



Turn signal lever

This lever turns the left- and right-turn signals on and off. You use your turn signals to communicate to other road users that you want to change direction or position.

driving tip

On Yukon highways, you must drive with the low beam headlights on during the day if your car does not have automatic daytime running lights.

Lights

The first position of the light switch controls the tail lights, parking lights and side-marker lights, as well as the dashboard and licence plate lights. The second position controls the headlights.

Your vehicle will have another switch position or separate switch that controls the two brightness settings of the headlights: low beam and high beam. Use the high beam setting only on unlit roads at night when there aren't any vehicles approaching or in front of you.

Use the parking lights when you are stopped and want to make sure your vehicle is visible. Don't use these lights when your vehicle is moving; put the headlights on instead.

Vehicles made after 1991 have automatic daytime running lights, a safety feature that makes your vehicle easier for other drivers to see during daylight hours. Daytime running lights do not activate the tail lights. Do not use them for nighttime driving or for low visibility conditions. Use the low or high beam lights instead.

Hazard light switch

The hazard light switch activates both turn signals at the same time. These flashing lights tell other road users to be careful near your vehicle because you may have stopped for an emergency.

Cruise control

Cruise control lets you pre-set a speed that will stay the same. Use it only under ideal highway driving conditions. Never use the cruise control feature:

- on wet, slippery, snowy or icy surfaces
- in urban traffic
- when you are tired
- on winding roads.

Wipers and washer control

Practise finding the different wiper speed settings. Make sure you know how to turn on the windshield washer. The wipers should always be in top working condition to give you a clear view during rainy and snowy weather conditions.

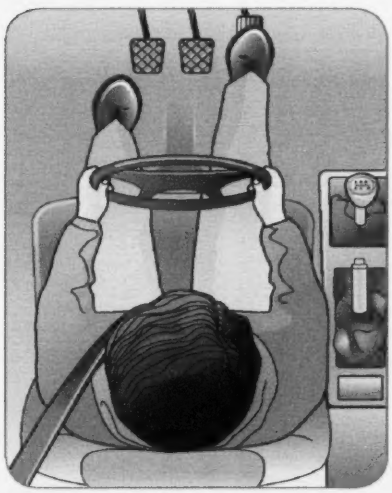
Horn

Your horn is an important way to communicate warnings to other road users. Be sure to use it wisely.

Heater, defroster and air conditioning controls

The panel of levers that control the defroster, incoming air and air conditioning are located within easy reach of the driver. Check your owner's manual to see how they work. Practise with them so you can easily turn on the defroster without looking at the controls.

Foot pedals

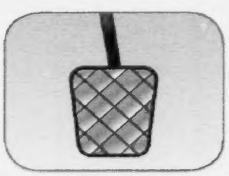


You will operate two or three controls with your feet, depending on whether your vehicle has an automatic or a standard transmission.

Use your right foot to operate the brake and gas pedals, and your left foot to operate the clutch. Practise doing this until you can find each pedal easily. This will help you react quickly in an emergency.

Accelerator

The gas pedal controls the amount of fuel going to the engine. The more fuel the engine gets, the faster the vehicle will go. You need to practise putting the right amount of pressure on the pedal so you keep control over the speed of your vehicle. Always operate the accelerator with your right foot.



Brake

The brake pedal is located to the left of the accelerator and is used to slow down and stop the vehicle. Always use your right foot to operate the brake. You need to learn to apply the right amount of pressure on the brake so that you can stop the vehicle smoothly and precisely.

Be familiar with the braking system of your vehicle. Power brakes need less pressure than standard brakes.

warning!

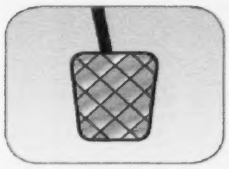
Always wear shoes when driving so you have good contact with the brake and the accelerator. Avoid driving in shoes that have high heels or platform soles.

Anti-lock brakes

Your vehicle may have an anti-lock braking system (ABS). Look for an indicator light on the dash. This electronic system keeps the wheels from locking.

Vehicles with anti-lock braking systems also have regular braking systems. The anti-lock braking system is activated only when you press heavily on the brake pedal, such as during an emergency stop. Read your owner's manual for more information about your vehicle's anti-lock braking system and how to use it properly. Also see **chapter 8, emergency strategies**, for more information on ABS braking.

If your ABS indicator light stays on after you start the vehicle, the system may be malfunctioning. Take the vehicle in for repair.



Clutch

In a vehicle with a standard transmission, pressing the clutch pedal disconnects the engine from the transmission so you can shift gears. You use your left foot to press the pedal when changing gears. Do not keep the clutch pedal pressed part-way down, called "riding the clutch," when the vehicle is moving because this causes unnecessary wear to the clutch.

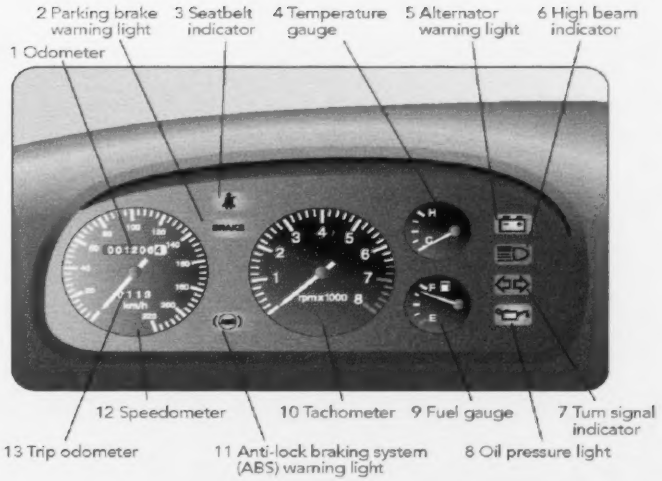
When you begin moving after a stop, release the clutch slowly and smoothly to avoid stalling the car. When you stop, use the brake first and then depress the clutch just before you stop. This will avoid coasting with the clutch in.

driving tip

Coasting with the clutch in is a poor driving habit. Keep your vehicle in gear, and your foot off the cluth, in case you need to make a defensive manoevre.

Control panel

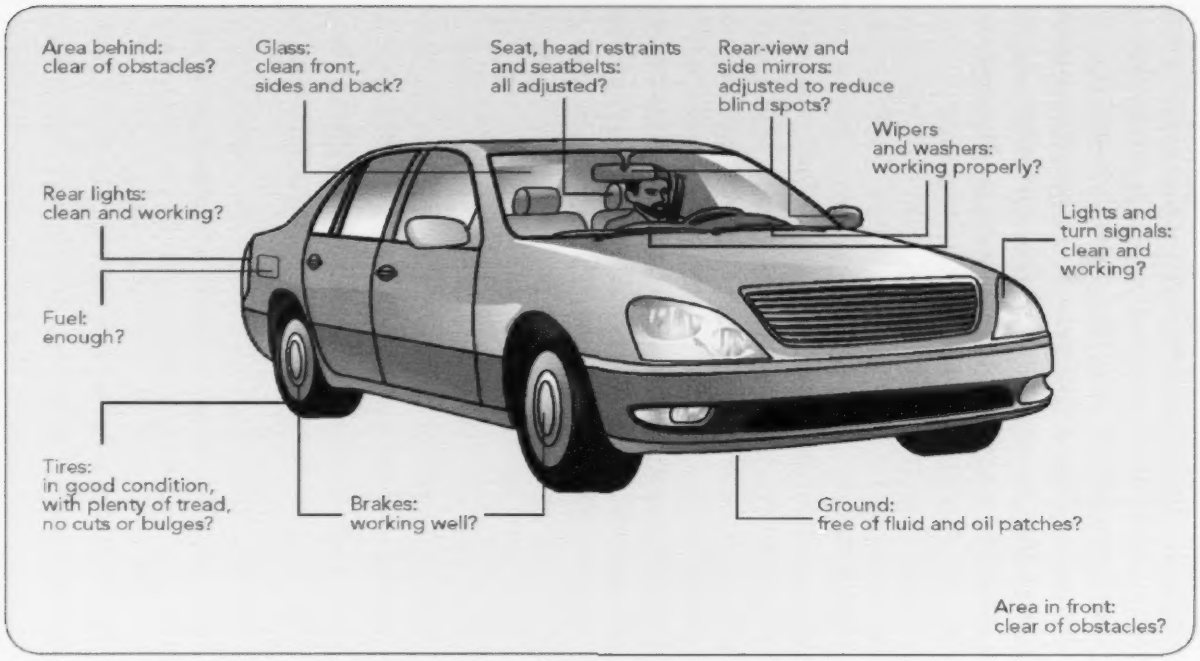
When you sit in the driver's seat, you'll see the control panel directly in front of you. On the next page, match the numbers in the chart to the numbers in the illustration to find out what each item does. Remember that control panels are different in each vehicle. Be sure you can find each item on vehicles you drive.



Number	Indicator/Gauge	Function
1	Odometer	Displays the number of kilometres/miles that the vehicle has travelled since manufacture.
2	Brake warning light	Reminds you to release the parking brake before moving. If the light comes on while using the foot brake, it means the brake system is not working properly. Have it checked by a mechanic.
3	Seatbelt indicator	Reminds you to fasten your seatbelt.
4	Temperature light/gauge	Shows the temperature of the engine coolant and whether the engine is overheating.
5	Alternator warning light/gauge	Shows whether the battery is charging.
6	High beam indicator	Usually a blue light that indicates the high beam headlights are on.
7	Turn signal indicator	Shows whether a turn signal is on. Both will flash when the hazard lights are on.
8	Oil pressure warning light/gauge	Indicates the oil pressure in the engine. It does not tell you how much oil is in the engine.
9	Fuel gauge	Indicates the amount of fuel in the gas tank.
10	Tachometer	Displays the engine speed in revolutions per minute (r.p.m.).
11	Anti-lock brake system warning light	Indicates if the anti-lock brake system is working properly. It will come on for a few seconds when you start the car, and when the anti-lock brake system is activated while stopping. If the light stays on after starting the car, it means the brake system may not be working properly. Have it checked by a mechanic.
12	Speedometer	Shows the speed the vehicle is travelling (in either kilometres or miles per hour).
13	Trip odometer	Shows the distance travelled since it was reset to zero.

Pre-trip check

Even if you're in a hurry, you should always check your vehicle to make sure it's safe to drive. The pre-trip check doesn't take long, and will soon become a habit. It will help prevent a vehicle breakdown. Always check the following:


Area behind: clear of obstacles?
Glass: clean front, sides and back?
Seat, head restraints and seatbelts: all adjusted?
Rear-view and side mirrors: adjusted to reduce blind spots?
Wipers and washers: working properly?
Rear lights: clean and working?
Lights and turn signals: clean and working?
Fuel: enough?
Tires: in good condition, with plenty of tread, no cuts or bulges?
Brakes: working well?
Ground: free of fluid and oil patches?
Area in front: clear of obstacles?

driving tip

Just as you check the safety of your vehicle before starting out, check your trip planning:

- Do you know your route? Use a map if necessary.
- Do you have enough time? It pays to allow a few extra minutes.

Periodic check

Your pre-trip check will help you feel confident that your vehicle is safe as you set out for your destination. To ensure good maintenance, you also need to do a more thorough check every few weeks. How often you do the periodic check will depend on how much you drive.

Checklist

Use the following checklist to keep your vehicle in good running order:

- ❑ Is the engine oil at the proper level? Is it clean?
- ❑ Is the radiator coolant topped up?
- ❑ Do you have enough washer fluid?
- ❑ Is the brake fluid level okay?
- ❑ Is the power steering fluid level okay?

- ❑ Is the parking brake properly adjusted?
- ❑ Are the engine hoses cracked or leaking?
- ❑ Is the fan belt in good condition?
- ❑ Are all the lights working? (Remember to check both the brake and backup lights too.)
- ❑ Are the wipers in good condition?
- ❑ Do you have enough fuel?
- ❑ Are the tires properly inflated?
- ❑ Are the tires in good condition?

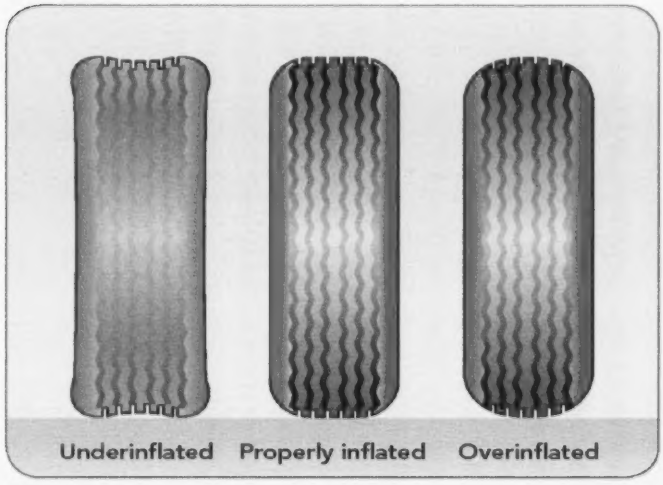
Tire tips

Tires are key pieces of safety equipment, so remember to:

- Keep your tires inflated to the recommended pressure level.
- Must have at least 1.6mm (1/16") of tire tread.
- Replace any tires that show bumps, bulges, cuts, cracks or exposed belts.
- Use only tires that match the specifications for your vehicle.
- Make sure all four tires are similar so they work together.
- Keep the spare tire at the required air pressure. A space-saver spare tire has the correct air pressure marked on its side. When you use this type of spare tire, never drive faster than 80 km/h.
- Rotate tires regularly for even wear.
- Avoid sudden starts and stops as they reduce the life of your tires.

driving tip

Check tire inflation when the tires are cold. Refer to the owner's manual or the sticker on the driver's door for the proper inflation level. Do not use the numbers on the side of the tire.



Properly inflated tires help keep you safe by increasing your vehicle's traction.

Prepare for winter driving

In Yukon, we need to make sure we prepare our vehicles and ourselves for winter driving conditions.

Prepare your vehicle:

- Make sure all vehicle lights are working.
- Replace vehicle fluids, such as oil, washer fluid and anti-freeze, with winter-grade products.
- Check brakes and battery.
- Tune up engine.
- Install with winter tires (check tire pressure and tread) to improve vehicle handling and control in slippery conditions.
- Inspect belts and hoses.
- Install windshield wiper blades made for winter use.
- Confirm heater and defrost are working properly.
- Check the exhaust system. Any leaks can be extremely dangerous because carbon monoxide can collect in vehicles when the windows and vents are closed.
- Carry an emergency winter driving kit.

driving tip

Using chains on icy roads is a good idea. Make sure you are familiar with how to mount chains on tires. Practise putting them on your vehicle before you need to use them.

Adjust your driving habits:

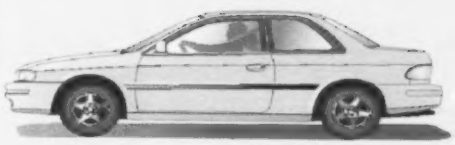
- Allow more time to reach your destination.
- Increase following and stopping distance.
- Decrease travelling speed.
- Brake and accelerate slowly.
- Steer smoothly and gradually.
- Know your weather and road conditions.

driving tip

In extremely bad conditions, it may be safer to park your vehicle than to continue driving.

Driving and the environment

Cars and trucks use over half the world's annual oil supply. We know there is a limited supply of oil. Automobiles and light-duty trucks emit almost two-thirds of the common air pollutants.



carbon
nitrogen
sulphur
hydrocarbons

acid rain
drought
smog
respiratory diseases
habitat damage
global warming
dying forests
greenhouse gases

One out of every two Canadians owns a car or light truck and drives about 19,800 kilometres per year, according to Environment Canada statistics. Exhaust emissions from cars and trucks are one of the leading causes of climate change, urban smog and acid rain. On average, each vehicle releases over four metric tonnes of air pollutants per year.

driving tip

Safe driving habits can reduce your fuel consumption by as much as 30 per cent, save wear and tear on your car, and reduce emissions. For more smart ways to be fuel-efficient, visit the Natural Resources Canada Office of Energy Efficiency website at www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca or call 1-800-387-2000.

For more tips on how to drive smart and save money, go to www.drivesmartsavegreen.com.

Here are some things you can do to help protect the environment and save money, too:

Use other forms of transportation

- Walk, cycle or take public transit whenever possible.
- Arrange carpools. Instead of driving children to school, walk or cycle with them.

Reduce fuel consumption

Driving safely reduces fuel consumption and saves money, too.

- Drive smoothly and at a steady speed. Avoid "jackrabbit" starting and stopping.
- Slow down and save. Keep to posted speeds or below.
- Plan your route. Combine several errands into one trip, and plan the route so that you go to the destination that is farthest away first. This will allow your vehicle to warm up to its normal operating temperature which helps reduce fuel consumption.
- Avoid idling. Turn the motor off if stopped for more than 60 seconds, such as when stopped at the side of the road.

- Check tire pressure at least monthly. Under-inflated tires increase fuel consumption.
- Avoid excess weight. Remove any items in the car and trunk that you don't need.
- Roll down your windows. Refrain from using air conditioning under 50 km/h. Use your vehicle's flow-through ventilation rather than air conditioning on the highway.
- Remove roof racks and roof boxes to reduce drag.

Reduce emissions

Choose a fuel-efficient vehicle.

- Keep your vehicle tuned up to reduce emissions.
- Change the oil regularly and use the right grade. Have any oil leaks fixed.
- Keep the air filter clean.
- Make sure your air conditioning system doesn't have any leaks.

Do not pour motor oil, gas, antifreeze or battery acid down drains. Take these fluids to recycling locations.

3 signs, signals and road markings

in this chapter

- Signs
  - regulatory signs
  - school, playground and crosswalk signs
  - lane use signs
  - turn control signs
  - parking signs
  - reserved lane signs
  - warning signs
  - object markers
  - construction signs
  - information and destination signs
  - railway signs
- Signals
  - lane control signals
  - traffic lights
- Road markings
  - yellow lines
  - white lines
  - reserved lane markings
  - other markings

In **chapter 2, you and your vehicle**, you learned about some of the controls in your vehicle. This chapter is a handy reference section for the most common signs, signals and road markings that keep traffic organized and flowing smoothly.

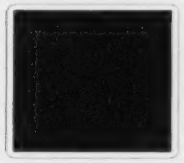
Signs

There are three ways to read signs: by their shape, their colour and the messages printed on them. Understanding these three ways of reading signs will help you figure out the meaning of signs that are new to you.

Stop

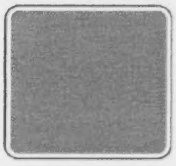
Yield the right-of-way

Shows driving regulations



Explains lane use

School zone signs are fluorescent yellow-green



Tells about motorist services

Shows a permitted action

Shows an action that is not permitted

Warns of hazards ahead

Warns of construction zones

Railway crossing

Shows distance and direction

Regulatory signs

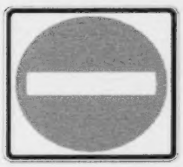
These signs tell you about driving laws and regulations. It is an offence under the Yukon *Motor Vehicle Act* to disregard them. Drivers who do not follow the instructions on these signs will receive penalties.

Stop completely, continue only when safe

Give the right-of-way to other vehicles and crossing pedestrians

The fastest you may drive in good conditions

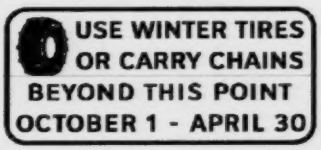
Indicates a lower speed limit ahead



Do not enter

Do not go this way, usually mounted on exit ramps

One way, gives direction of traffic on cross street



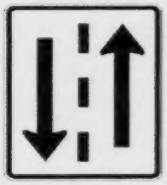
Winter tires or chains must be used when sign is displayed

Stay off this road during major disasters. Road may be used only by emergency vehicles.

Move into right lane if driving slower than regular traffic

Keep right unless passing

Do not pass



Two-way traffic, keep right unless passing

Keep right of the divider

No stopping between here and the next no-stopping sign

No stopping during posted times between here and the next sign

No bicycle riding beyond this point

No right turn on red light

Crosswalk, school and playground signs

These signs tell you the rules to follow in areas where you need to be extra cautious.

Pedestrian-activated crosswalk, prepare to stop if the light is flashing.

Pedestrian crosswalk, yield to people crossing.

School crosswalk, yield to pedestrians. If there is a crossing guard, follow directions.

School zone, reduce speed when children are present.

Playground nearby, be prepared to slow down.

Playground zone. 30 km/h limit is in effect 24 hours a day, every day.

School zone. 50 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days when children are on the roadway or shoulder.

School zone. If the tab underneath only indicates the speed limit, that limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days.

School zone. The tab underneath indicates the speed limit and the hours that it is in effect (in this case, the 30 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days).

Lane use signs

Signs showing which lanes may be used to turn or go straight are mounted above the lane or at the side of the lane before the intersection. If you are in a lane controlled by a lane use sign, you must follow the direction indicated by the arrows. You may not move into or out of the lane while you are in an intersection.

Turn left only

Continue straight only

Go through or turn left

Go through or turn right

Vehicles from both directions must turn left, no through traffic allowed

Vehicles in both of these lanes must turn left

Turn control signs

Turn control signs are mounted directly above the intersection. You must follow the direction of the arrow.

Left turn only

Go straight only, no turns

Turn right or left only

No right turns during posted times

Parking signs

Parking signs let you know where and when you are allowed to park. You may receive fines or your vehicle may be towed (or both) if you park illegally.

Time-limited parking during posted times

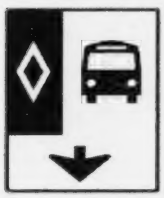
Do not park here

Parking is not allowed during posted times

Parking only for vehicles displaying the disabled parking sign and carrying a person with disabilities

Reserved lane signs

A white diamond painted on the road surface marks reserved lanes. Reserved lane signs are also placed over or beside lanes that are reserved for certain vehicles such as buses or high occupancy vehicles (HOVs). Other HOV signs may give additional information on who may use the HOV lane.



Only buses in this lane

Only buses and HOVs in this lane: may show how many people must be in the HOV

Curb lane of cross street ahead is a reserved lane

Warning signs

Most warning signs are yellow and diamond-shaped. They warn of possible hazards ahead.

Winding road ahead

Hidden side road ahead

Sharp curve ahead, slow to suggested speed

Curve ahead, slow down

Merging traffic ahead

Right lane ends ahead

Divided highway ends ahead, keep right

Two-way traffic ahead

Road narrows ahead

Narrow structure ahead, often a bridge

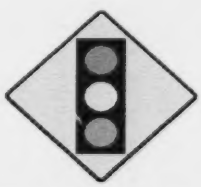
Bump or rough road ahead

Road may be slippery ahead

Steep hill ahead, slow down

Stop sign ahead

Roundabout ahead



Signal lights ahead

Signal lights ahead, prepare to stop when lights are flashing

Pedestrian crosswalk ahead

School crosswalk ahead. This sign is fluorescent yellow-green.

School bus stop ahead

Cyclists may be on roadway

Underpass ahead clearance

Truck crossing ahead

Recommended exit speed. Drive slower in poor conditions.

Pavement ends ahead

Hazard or danger ahead, turn right or left

Watch for deer ahead

Opening bridge ahead

Watch for rocks on the road ahead

Object markers

Pay special attention to object markers — they are mounted on obstructions.

Obstruction, keep right or left

Obstruction, keep right

Obstruction, keep left

Construction signs

These signs warn of construction and maintenance work. You must pay attention to the warnings and obey the instructions on these signs. Obey traffic-control persons, travel within the posted speed, stay well back from all equipment and pass only when it is safe.

Detour ahead

Soft shoulder ahead, stay off

Construction ahead

Traffic-control person ahead

Crew working. Obey posted speed limit.

Survey crew. Obey posted speed limit.

End of construction zone speed limit

Follow the lighted arrow

Blasting ahead. Follow instructions on sign.

Information and destination signs

These signs give information about destinations, route numbers and facilities, such as:

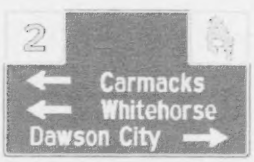
Hospital nearby

Gas available ahead

Accommodation ahead

Wildlife viewing with interpretive panel

Alaska Highway route marker



Directional sign

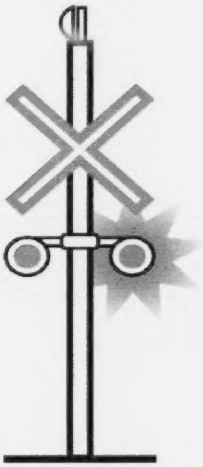
Trans-Canada Highway route marker

Railway signs

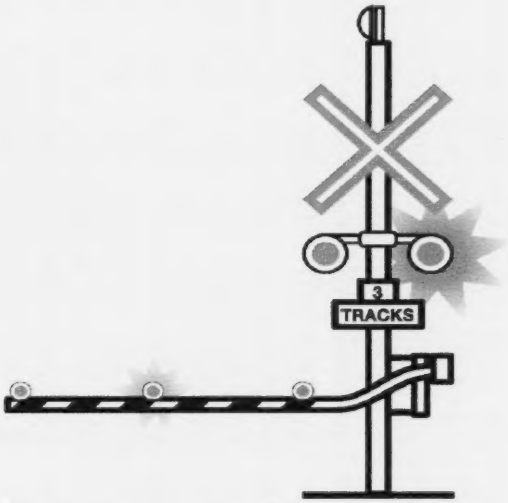
Public railway and highway crossings are indicated with signs or pavement markings and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices for your protection. Watch for them and remember you must always yield to trains.

Railway crossing ahead. Be prepared to stop

Railway crossing on side road ahead. Be prepared to stop



Railway crossing. Stop, then proceed when it is safe



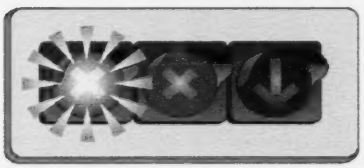
Railway crossing. Stay stopped until the gate is fully raised

Signals

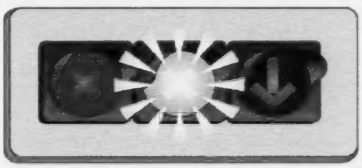
Lighted signals are a way of controlling traffic flow.

Lane control signals

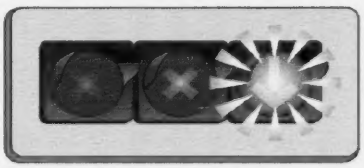
Lane control signals are placed over lanes to indicate which ones are open for driving.



Do not drive in this lane



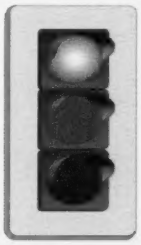
Move out of this lane and into a lane with a green arrow. If the lane control signals over all of the lanes are flashing yellow, slow down and proceed with caution.



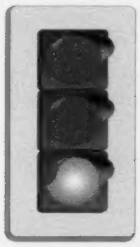
Drive in this lane

Traffic lights

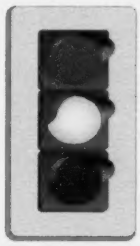
Traffic lights are used to help organize the flow of traffic. A red light means "stop," a yellow light means "caution" and a green light means "go." These signals can have slightly different meanings if they are flashing or if they are shaped as arrows rather than circles. In some places green arrows may flash; in others they may not.



Steady red. Stop, then after coming to a full stop, you may turn right.

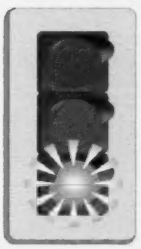


Steady green. Continue if the intersection is clear.



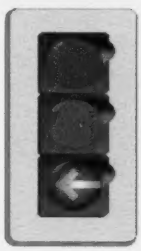
Steady yellow. Slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can't safely stop in time.

Flashing red. Stop, then continue only when it is safe.



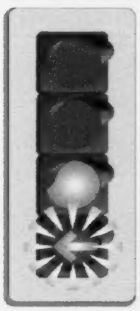
Flashing green. Pedestrian-controlled light, go only if the intersection is clear.

Flashing yellow. Slow down and proceed with caution.



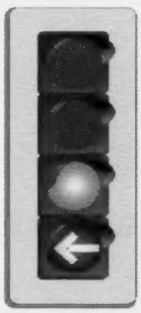
Green arrow. Turn in the direction of the arrow.

Green arrow. No turn permitted; go straight through only.

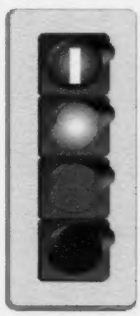


Flashing green arrow with a steady green light. You may turn in the direction of the arrow or proceed.

Flashing green arrow with a steady red light. Left turn allowed; through traffic must stop for red light.



Yellow arrow. Advance left turn signal is about to change, slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can't safely stop in time.



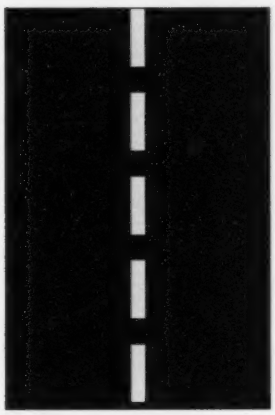
Transit priority signal, steady white rectangular light. Only buses may go on this signal.

Road markings

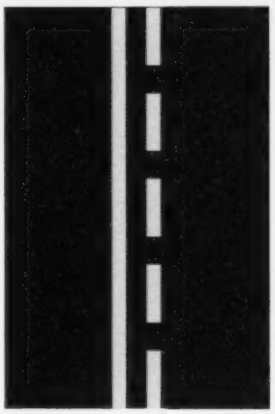
Road markings give you warnings or direction. They are painted on the roadway, curbs or other surfaces. It is illegal to drive over freshly painted, wet pavement markings.

Yellow lines

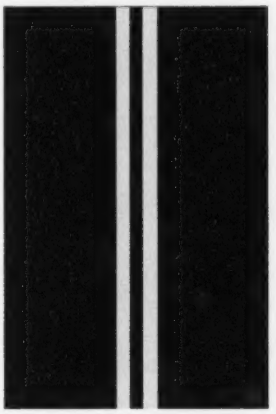
Yellow lines divide traffic moving in opposite directions. If there is a yellow line to your left, there will be traffic coming towards you on the other side of that yellow line.



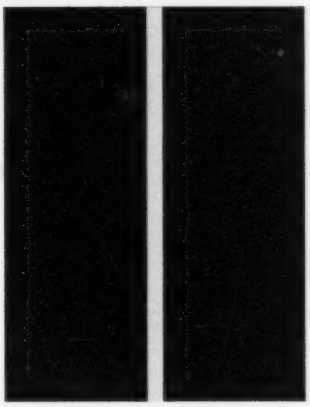
Broken line. Passing is allowed when safe.



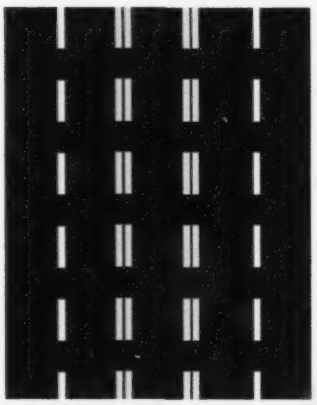
Broken line and solid line. You may pass only when it is safe and the broken line is on your side.



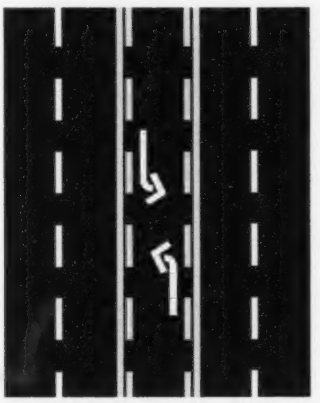
Double solid line. No passing allowed.



Single yellow line. Passing is allowed in some circumstances.



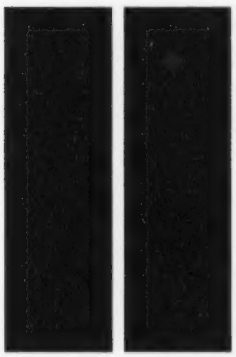
Double broken yellow line. Lane is reversible. Lane control signal will show whether you may use this lane.



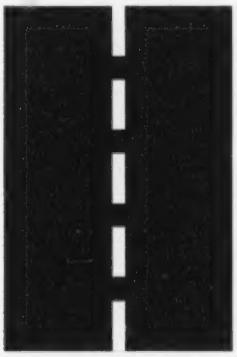
Two-way left-turn lane. Drivers travelling in opposite directions share this lane for left turns; markings may be reversed (solid lines inside the broken lines).

White lines

White lines are used to separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. White lines also mark crosswalks, stopping positions and the right shoulders of highways.

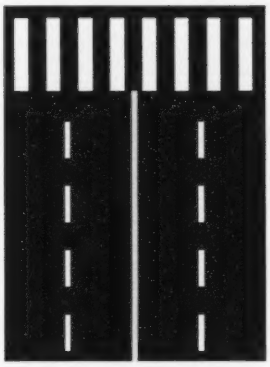


Solid line. Do not change lanes.

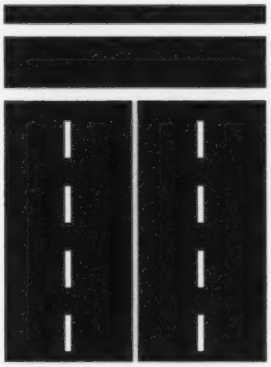


Broken line. Lane changing is allowed when safe.

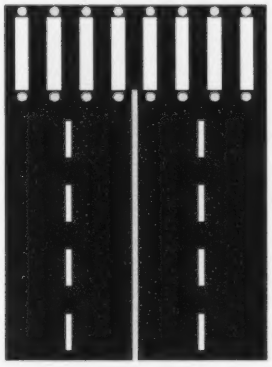
Stop line. Stop before this line.



Pedestrian crosswalk. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.



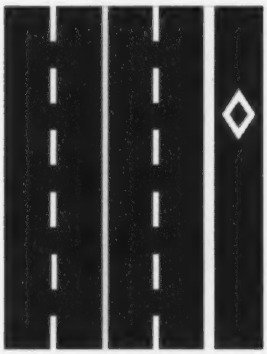
Pedestrian crosswalk. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.



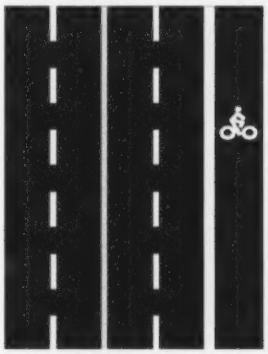
Pedestrian-activated crosswalk with illuminating lights in pavement. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Reserved lane markings

These markings set off lanes for high occupancy vehicles, buses and bicycles. High occupancy vehicle lanes are marked with thick solid or broken lines and white diamond symbols.



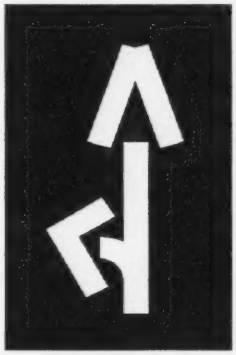
Reserved lane. Additional signs or markings state which vehicles are allowed.



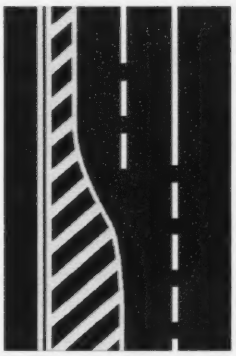
Bicycle lane, for cyclists only. Cyclists must travel in the same direction as the traffic beside them. The lane is marked with an outline of a bicycle and sometimes with a diamond.

Other markings

Vehicles in this lane must turn left.



Vehicles in this lane must go straight or turn left.



Painted island. Keep to the right and do not drive on or over.

4 rules of the road

in this chapter

- Understanding intersections
  - signalling
  - types of intersections
  - stopping at intersections
  - right-of-way at intersections
- Using lanes correctly
  - which lane should you use
  - lane tracking
  - turning lanes
  - reserved lanes
  - pulling into a lane
  - passing
  - merging
  - highway, freeway entrances/exits
  - cul-de-sacs
  - turning around
- Parking tips and rules

Chapter 3, signs, signals and road markings, gave you some information about the most common signs, signals and road markings you will see when driving. This chapter gives you the information you'll need to help you drive safely at intersections, use lanes correctly and park legally.

Understanding intersections

Intersections are places where a number of road users cross paths. There is often a lot of activity in intersections, so it's important to be alert. Remember that other road users may be in a hurry, and may want to move into the same space where you are planning on moving.

Signalling

Signals are important. They let other traffic know what you are intending to do. You should signal when you're preparing to:

- turn left or right
- change lanes
- park
- move toward, or away from, the side of the road.

Types of intersections

Controlled intersections

A controlled intersection is one that has signs or traffic lights telling you what to do. To drive safely in these intersections, you need to know what the signals and signs mean, and also the right-of-way rules. Always be cautious. Other drivers may not be paying attention to the signs and signals.

Uncontrolled intersections

Uncontrolled intersections have no signs or traffic lights. They are usually found in areas where there isn't much traffic. They can be dangerous places because drivers might not be expecting cross traffic or pedestrians.

As you approach, slow down and look out for other road users. Scan the intersection from left to right. If another vehicle has arrived at the intersection before you, slow down and yield. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.

driving tip

Treat an unmarked T-intersection the same way as any other uncontrolled intersection.

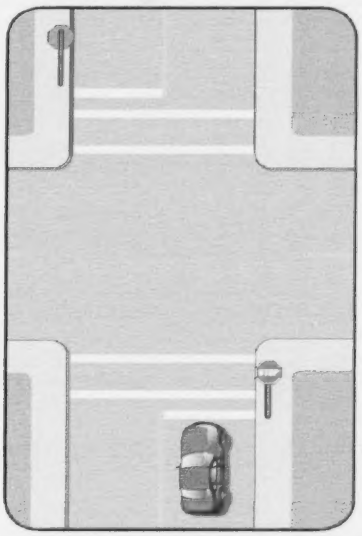
driving tip

If a traffic control person is directing traffic, you must follow that person's directions.

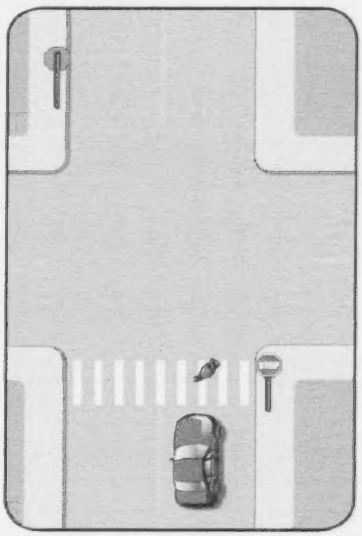
Be careful when you want to turn left where other traffic is approaching from the opposite direction. Yield to traffic that is in or near the intersection. If you intend to go straight through and a vehicle is already in the intersection turning left, you should yield.

Stopping at intersections

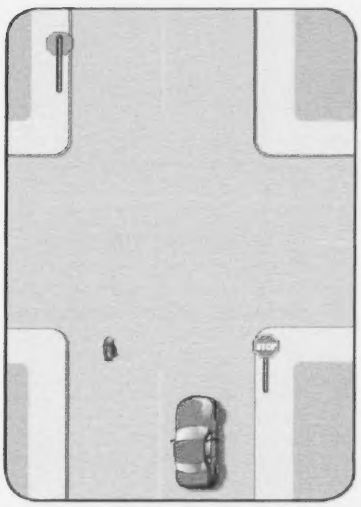
There are rules about where you position your vehicle when you have to stop at an intersection.



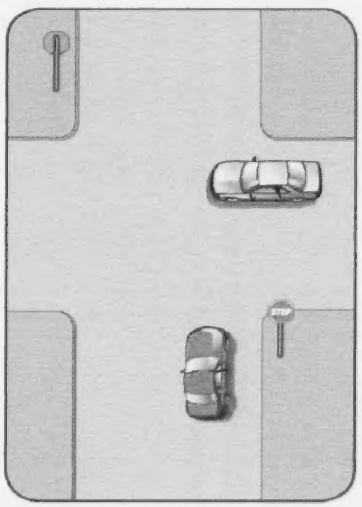
If there is a stop line, stop just before the line.



If there is a crosswalk but no stop line, stop just before the crosswalk.



If there is an unmarked crosswalk, stop where you would if there were a marked crosswalk.



Where there is no stop line, no crosswalk and no sidewalk, stop just before you enter the intersection.

Right-of-way at intersections

Right-of-way rules determine who should yield when more than one road user wants to move into the same space. It's important to know these rules because they keep traffic moving in an orderly way. Remember that you can't always count on the other person to follow the rules. Even if you have the right-of-way, it's still your responsibility to do all you can to avoid a crash.

For information on right-of-way rules for crosswalks and railway crossings, see **chapter 6, sharing the road**.

driving tip

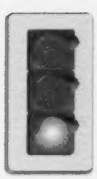
Sometimes traffic lights stop working properly. The lights can go out, or all four lights can start flashing. Treat the intersection like a four-way stop if this happens.

Intersections controlled by traffic lights

Most people know who has the right-of-way at intersections controlled by traffic lights, but they may not understand how to correctly respond to these lights. Here are some pointers that will help you stay safe at intersections.

Steady red light — a red light means that you must come to a complete stop. You must wait for the light to turn green before you go straight ahead.

After you have stopped and made sure the intersection is clear of all vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, you may turn right or turn left onto a one-way street. Watch for signs prohibiting you from making these turns on a red light.



Steady green light — green means go only if the intersection is clear, and it is safe to do so.

- Stale green light — a stale green light is one that has been green for a long time, and is about to turn yellow. If you didn't see the light turn green, then it may be stale. Look for additional clues:
  - are there a lot of cars lined up on the cross street waiting for the light to change?
  - in many areas, the crosswalk signal will change from a white figure to an orange hand just before the light turns yellow, or will show how many seconds are left before the traffic light will change.
- Point of no return — as you approach a stale green light — taking into consideration your speed, the road conditions and the traffic behind you — decide on a point where you will no longer be able to stop safely. This is sometimes called the point of no return. When you reach this point, keep on going even if the light changes to yellow. You need to judge accurately so you won't be in the intersection when the light turns red.
- Fresh green light — a fresh green light is one that has just turned green. Don't move forward until you've scanned the intersection to make sure it's clear.

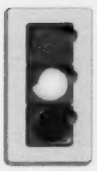
driving tip

If you didn't see the light turn green, then it may be stale. You should be prepared to stop.

driving tip

It is illegal to back up into an intersection or over a crosswalk.

- Making a left turn on a steady green light — when you are making a left turn, you must yield to oncoming traffic and wait for a safe gap before you turn.



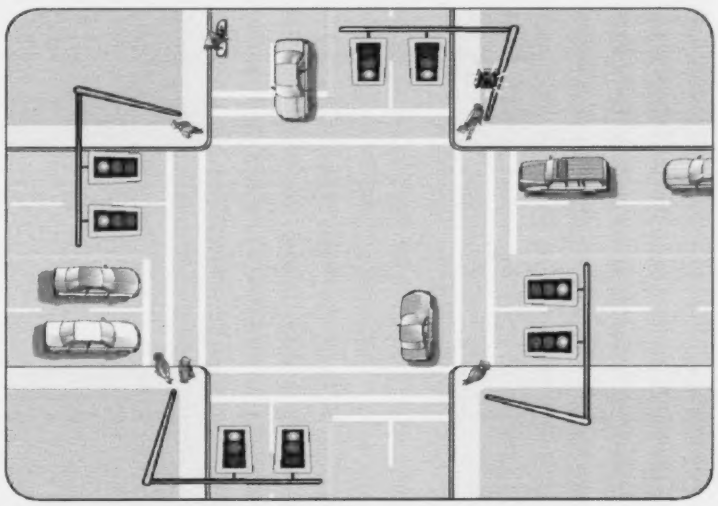
Steady yellow light — yellow means that the signal is about to turn red. You must stop before entering the intersection unless you can't safely stop in time.

Sometimes drivers panic if they are in an intersection waiting to make a left turn and the light turns yellow. In this situation, remember that you are legally allowed to complete your turn. But watch carefully for other vehicles, especially oncoming drivers trying to beat the red light.

driving tip

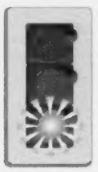
To be safe turning left at an intersection with a solid green traffic light follow these steps.

- Slow to an appropriate speed as you approach
- Signal left before entering the intersection
- Scan the intersection for danger
- Take possession of the intersection
- Keep your wheels straight
- Wait for a safe gap in the traffic
- Shoulder check left for pedestrians
- Complete your turn if all is clear



Flashing green light — watch for pedestrians, who may activate the pedestrian traffic light to change to yellow and then to red. Even if the pedestrian traffic light is not activated, traffic on the side street is facing a stop sign, and may be waiting to move into the intersection when it is clear and safe to do so.

What are the clues that tell you the green light is stale?



Left-turn signals

Some intersections have turn signals with green arrows, or designated lanes controlled by their own set of traffic lights, to allow you to turn left. These are called protected turns. As long as the green arrow is shown, you are protected from through traffic — they are facing a red light.

Separate left signal — some intersections have designated left-turn lanes controlled by their own set of traffic lights. A green arrow at the bottom of a separate set of traffic lights will tell you when to turn left. Traffic in the straight-through and right-turn lanes will be stopped by a red light on a different set of lights.

Once the green arrow has turned yellow, you must stop and wait for the next green arrow before turning.

Left signal on regular traffic lights — other intersections have left-turn lanes that are not controlled by a separate set of traffic lights. Here the advance green arrow is located on the bottom of the regular traffic lights.

The flashing green arrow allows you to turn left. Through traffic is facing a red light.

Once the green arrow has turned off, and only the regular green traffic light is on, you may still turn left, but you must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and oncoming traffic.

Sometimes these advance green arrows operate only during peak traffic hours.

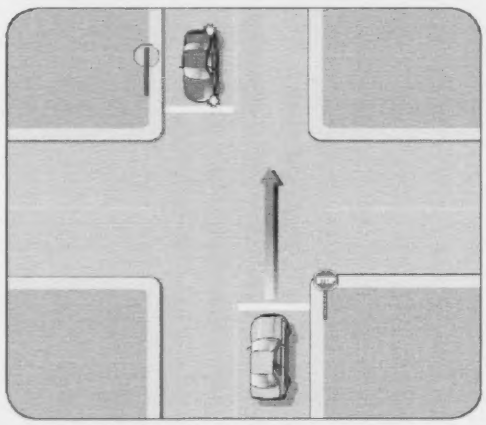
Flashing red lights — a flashing red light means that you must come to a complete stop. After you stop, you may move into the intersection when it is clear and safe to do so.

Intersections controlled by stop signs

A stop sign always means that you must come to a complete stop. Once you've stopped, check the intersection carefully. Whether you go or wait depends on the type of intersection and the other traffic around you.

Two-way stops — if two streets intersect and only one of the streets has stop signs, then the other street is a through street. Traffic on the through street has the right-of-way. If you are stopped at one of these types of intersections, wait until there is a safe gap before going through or turning.

If two vehicles are stopped at a two-way stop and one of the drivers wants to turn left, this driver should yield the right-of-way to the other vehicle. The only exception is if the left-turning vehicle is already in the intersection and has started to make the turn. In this case, the other vehicle must yield.



These drivers arrived at this two-way stop at the same time. The driver of the blue car wants to turn left. The driver of the yellow car wants to go straight. Who should yield?

driving tip

If there is any doubt about who has the right-of-way, or if there is any chance of a crash, it's always better to yield the right-of-way to the other person.

Four-way stops — when there are stop signs at all corners:

- The first vehicle to arrive at the intersection and come to a complete stop should go first.
- If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the one on the right should go first.
- If two vehicles are facing each other and have arrived at the intersection at about the same time, the one making a left turn should yield to the one going straight through.

Intersections controlled by yield signs

A yield sign means that you must let the traffic on the through road have the right-of-way. You may enter the intersection without stopping if there are no pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles on the through road. But you must slow down (and stop if necessary) and wait for a safe gap if there is traffic on the through road.

Traffic circles and roundabouts

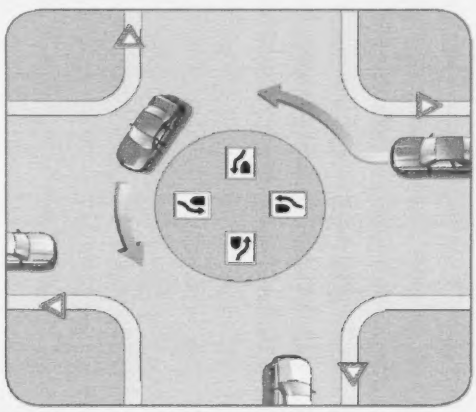
These are found in some areas to help traffic get through an intersection safely without necessarily stopping the flow of the traffic.

Traffic circles

Traffic circles usually have only one lane.

When you're using a traffic circle:

- Slow down as you approach the circle.
- Obey any posted traffic control signs, such as "Yield" or "Stop" signs. If there are no traffic control signs, treat it as an uncontrolled intersection.
- Yield to any traffic in the traffic circle. If another vehicle arrives at the traffic circle at the same time as you do, yield to the vehicle on your right.
- Go around the traffic circle to the right (that is, in a counter-clockwise direction).
- Use your signal to indicate when you are going to exit.



You must turn right to enter a traffic circle and right again to leave it. Yield to vehicles that are already in the traffic circle. If another vehicle arrives at the traffic circle at the same time as you do, yield to the vehicle on your right.

driving tip

Emergency vehicles displaying flashing lights and sirens always have the right-of-way. If an emergency vehicle is approaching, avoid blocking a traffic circle or roundabout. Stop for the emergency vehicle before entering, or exit the traffic circle or roundabout and then stop to allow the emergency vehicle to pass.

Roundabouts

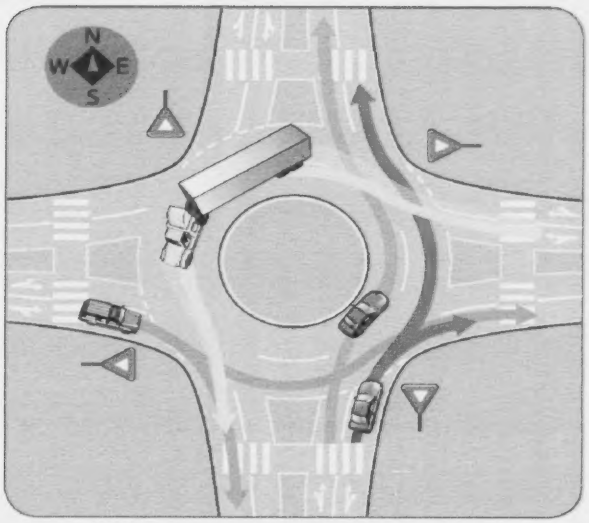
Roundabouts are usually larger than traffic circles and may have more than one lane. Lane use signs and markings may be displayed at the approaches to show where you can go in each lane when you are in the roundabout. Make sure you know where you want to go, and are in the proper lane to get there, before you enter a roundabout.

Roundabouts often have a truck apron around the central island to help large vehicles get through the roundabout.

When you use a roundabout:

- Know where you want to go before you enter a roundabout, and enter the correct lane. Lane use signs or road markings will show you which lane you need to use.
  If you want to turn left, make sure you are in the left lane.
  If you want to turn right, use the right lane. If you want to go straight, you may use either the left or right lane.
- Slow down as you approach the roundabout.
- Yield to pedestrians who may be crossing or about to cross in the crosswalk located in advance of the roundabout.
- Yield to any traffic already in the roundabout.
- Go around the roundabout in a counter-clockwise direction. Do not change lanes in a roundabout.
- Don't ride alongside large vehicles such as trucks and buses in roundabouts. They may need more than their lane to go through the roundabout.
- If you entered the roundabout in the left lane, stay in that lane. You may either go straight or turn left from that lane.
- Signal "right" before you exit.

When you leave the roundabout, be prepared to yield to pedestrians who may be in the crosswalk where you are exiting.



Slow down when approaching a roundabout and yield to traffic already in it. Stay in the same lane in which you approached the roundabout.

In the example above, the red car has entered the roundabout from the south in the right lane after yielding to vehicles in the roundabout. The driver may either turn right at the east exit or continue straight and take the north exit.

The blue car entered from the south in the left lane, and has merged into the left lane in the roundabout. Because the blue car entered from the left lane, the driver can't immediately turn right at the first exit (east), but can take either the north or west exit.

This sign warns you to keep away from large vehicles such as trucks and buses in a roundabout.

The tractor-trailer combination entered the roundabout from the east in the left lane and the driver is going to take the south exit. Note that because of the length of the combination, the trailer is partly in the right lane, and the combination will be exiting in the right lane.

The driver of the green car must yield to the tractor-trailer that's already in the roundabout.

Entering a roadway

When you are pulling out of a driveway, alley or parking lot onto a road, stop before the sidewalk or area where pedestrians may be walking. Then pull out carefully, yielding to traffic on the road and waiting for a safe gap.

Using lanes correctly

In the last chapter, you learned about the signs, signals and pavement markings that identify which lanes you can drive in. This section tells you more about which lanes to use and how to use them.

Which lane should you use?

Choose the lane that gives you the best vision and allows you to go where you want to go. On a multi-lane highway, you should travel in one of the right-hand lanes. This is especially important if you are driving more slowly than other vehicles or if signs direct you to keep out of the left lane.

Just because you are driving at the speed limit does not mean you should continually drive in the left lane. This may cause other drivers to try to pass on the right, which may not be as safe as passing on the left.

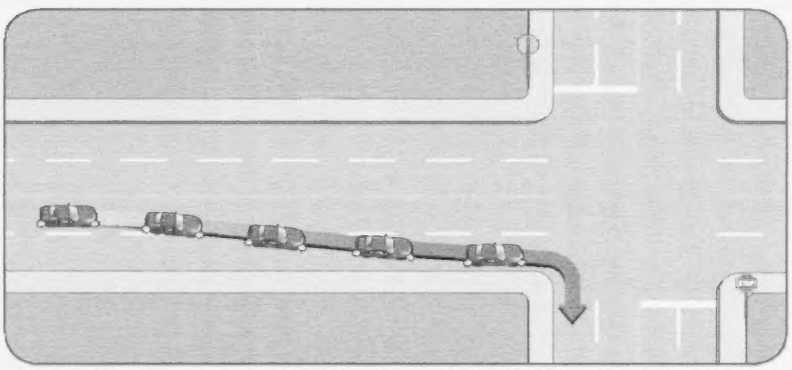
When you are on a freeway with more than two lanes in each direction, you should drive in the centre lane or a right-hand lane. This leaves the left lane for higher-speed traffic and passing vehicles.

Lane tracking

Before you make a turn, you need to get your vehicle into the correct lane. You also need to end up in the correct lane when you complete your turn. This is sometimes called lane tracking.

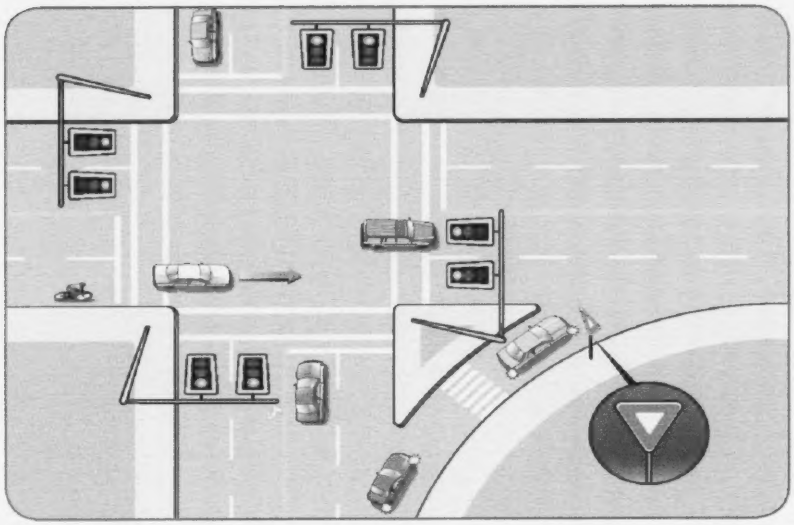
Right turns

These illustrations show lane tracking when you're making a right turn.



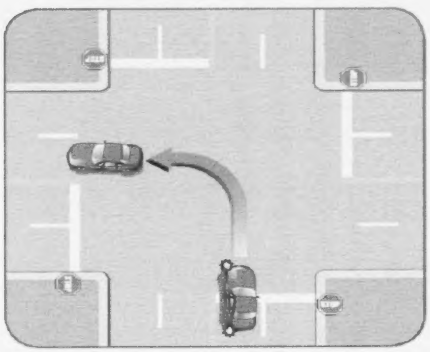
To turn right, move your car to the right lane and turn into the right lane of the cross street. In some intersections, road markings allow you to turn right from a centre lane.

Some intersections have special yield lanes for vehicles turning right. To make a right turn, move into this lane. Wait until there is a break in the traffic and then complete your turn.

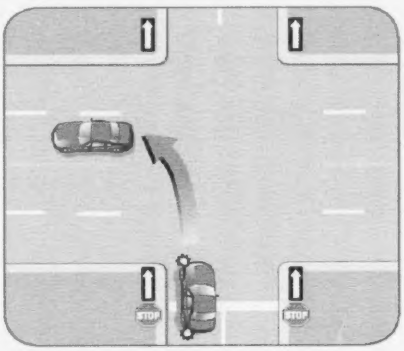


Left turns

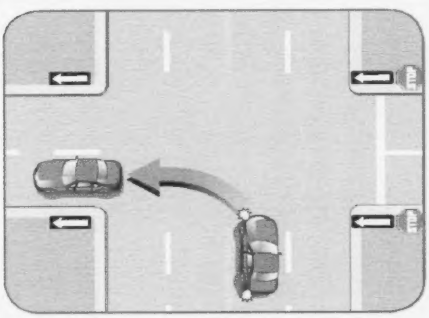
For left turns, it's sometimes harder to figure out which lane to turn into. These illustrations show you the correct lane tracking for different types of roads.



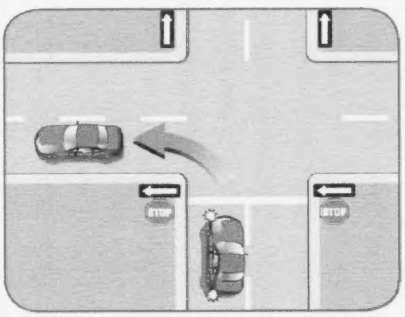
Turning left from a two-way road onto a two-way road: move your vehicle into the centre lane and drive in a smooth arc into the centre lane of the cross street.



Turning left from a one-way onto a two-way road: turn from the left lane into the centre lane.



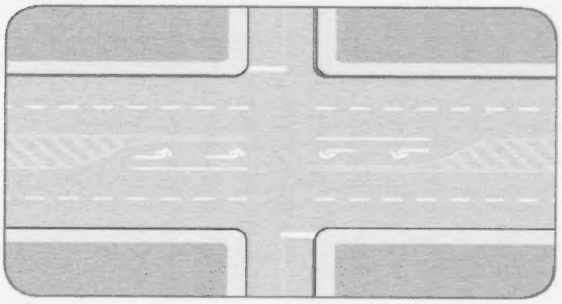
Turning left from a two-way onto a one-way road: turn from the centre lane into the left lane.



Turning left from a one-way onto a one-way road: turn from the left lane into the left lane.

Turning lanes

Some roads have special lanes for turning. As you approach an intersection, always check the signs and pavement markings to make sure you are in the correct lane to turn or to go straight through.



Turning lanes let you wait for a safe gap without holding up vehicles that are travelling straight through. Use the lane with the arrows only if you are turning left.

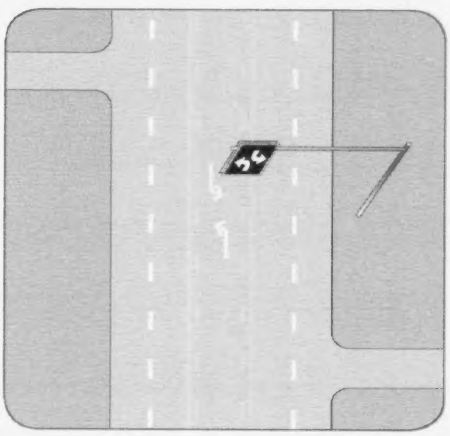
Multiple turning lanes

In large, complex intersections, there may be more than one right- or left-turn lane. Look carefully at the pavement markings, lane-use signs and signals. They will tell you what to do.

For example, the sign shown in the left column tells you that both the far-left lane and the lane next to it are used for left turns. If you are turning from the far-left lane, turn into the far-left lane. If you are turning from the lane next to it, turn into the lane next to the far-left lane.

Two-way left-turn lanes

Two-way left-turn lanes give left-turning vehicles coming from either direction a chance to turn without holding up traffic. They can be handy for turning left in the middle of a block, such as turning into a driveway. When you see one of these lanes, remember that vehicles coming from the other direction also use this lane to turn left.



Drivers from both directions share this centre lane when they want to turn left. Make sure there is enough space before you enter this lane. Remember to watch for vehicles coming from the opposite direction.

Turns in the middle of a block

Most drivers expect other vehicles to turn at an intersection. Sometimes you might want to turn left in the middle of a block, for example, into a driveway. You may turn left, even over a single solid line, **if** you do this carefully and safely, don't hold up other traffic, and there are no signs prohibiting such turns.

U-turns

If you find you are going in the wrong direction, you may be tempted to make a U-turn. U-turns are often risky. They are illegal:

- if they interfere with other traffic
- on a curve
- on or near the crest of a hill, where you cannot be seen by other traffic within 150 metres
- where a sign prohibits U-turns
- at an intersection where there is a traffic light
- in a business district, except at an intersection where there is no traffic light
- where a municipal by-law prohibits making a U-turn.

When you are deciding whether to make a U-turn, think about some alternatives, like driving around the block or continuing on to a side road where you can turn more safely.

Reserved lanes

In some areas, traffic lanes are reserved for different types of vehicles. High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and bus lanes help move more people in fewer vehicles. Bicycle lanes are reserved for cyclists.

High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes

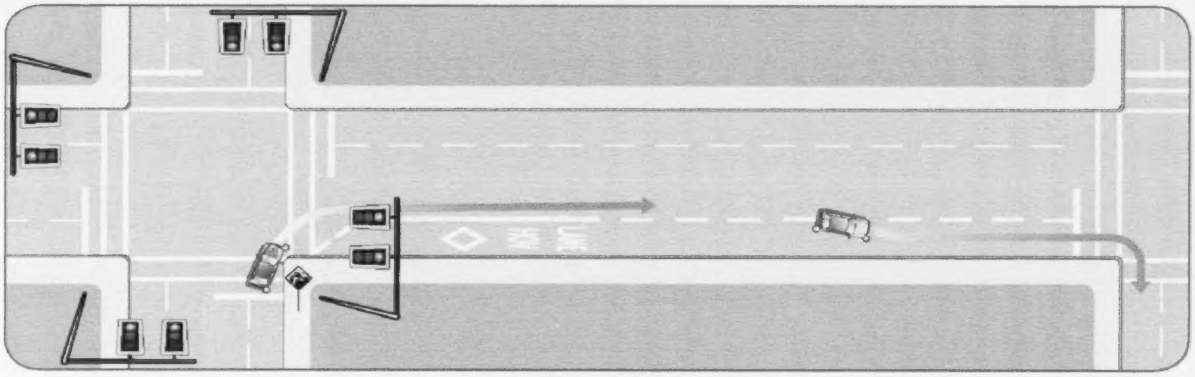
HOV lanes are reserved for buses and carpool vehicles. Motorcycles, bicycles and taxis may also use these lanes on some roads. On freeways and main highways, HOV lanes are beside either the median or the shoulder of the roadway. On city streets, HOV lanes are usually directly beside the curb.

Most HOV lanes operate 24 hours a day, but some are only in operation at peak traffic times. Check the traffic signs carefully. They will tell you where the lanes begin and end, when they are in operation, and the minimum number of people that must be in the vehicle.

If your vehicle is carrying enough people to travel in the HOV lane, or if you need to cross an HOV lane to turn, enter the lane

with care. Traffic in these lanes sometimes travels faster than the regular traffic. Make sure there is enough room for you to enter safely. Enter and exit where there are broken lines to indicate a crossing point.

Bus lanes



The driver of the blue car has seen the warning sign indicating that there is a reserved lane on the street the driver wishes to turn onto. The driver should turn into the lane next to the reserved lane, unless they are entitled to drive in the reserved lane and wish to drive in it. To turn right off of a street with a reserved lane, change lanes into the reserved lane where permitted and when safe.

In some jurisdictions, you will recognize a bus lane by a sign that has a diamond symbol and a picture of a bus. Only buses and sometimes cyclists are allowed to travel in lanes marked with this sign.

Bicycle lanes

Bicycle lanes are reserved for cyclists. Sometimes you will need to cross a bicycle lane to turn right, or to pull to the side of the road. Take extra care when you do this. The rules for bicycle lanes are:

- don't drive, stop or park in a bicycle lane.
- you may only cross a bicycle lane if the white line is broken or to turn into or out of a driveway.

driving tip

Be sure to signal well ahead and yield to all cyclists whenever you must cross a bicycle lane.

Pulling into a lane

Whenever you enter a lane, whether you're pulling into traffic or changing lanes, the vehicles in the lane you're moving into have the right-of-way. When you pull away from the roadside into a lane of traffic, you need to make sure you are not cutting anyone off. Watch carefully for smaller traffic, such as bicycles and motorcycles, that may be approaching faster than you think.

driving tip

Don't change lanes at an intersection. You could confuse other drivers and cause a crash.

The same rule applies when you're planning to change lanes. Make sure there is a large enough gap so that when you pull in

front of another vehicle, that driver doesn't have to slow down to avoid crashing into you. Legally, you must signal when you change lanes.

Passing

Passing requires moving into another lane, sometimes a lane of approaching traffic, and then back into your original lane. Remember, if you move into another vehicle's lane, that vehicle has the right-of-way. It doesn't matter if it's a car, a motorcycle or a bicycle. Other traffic shouldn't have to change direction or slow down for you.

driving tip

Don't speed up as someone is trying to pass you: it's illegal. Help the other driver get back into your lane by slowing down and making room.

If you're planning to pass, make sure you can do it safely and legally.

- Pass on the right only when there is a designated lane for doing so, or if a driver ahead is turning left. Do not use the shoulder to pass.
- Pass on the left only when it is safe to do so and lane markings allow it.
- Keep within the speed limit when passing.
- Make sure you know whether the pavement markings allow you to pass. See **chapter 3, signs, signals and road markings**, for more information.

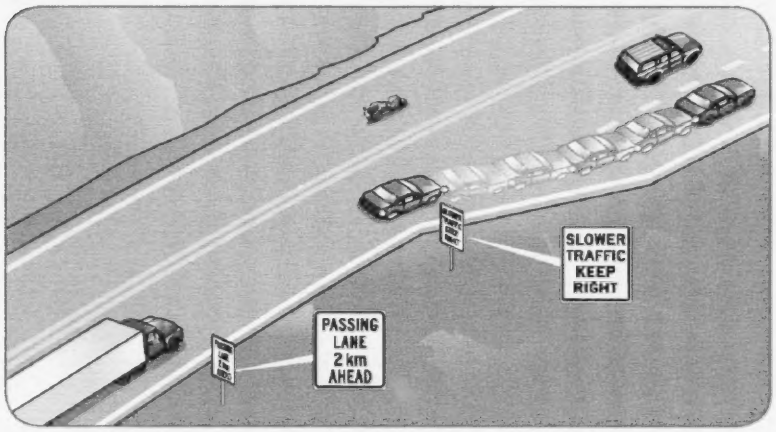
Passing lanes

Some highways have special passing lanes. These lanes let slower vehicles move into the right lane so faster vehicles can pass safely in the left lane.

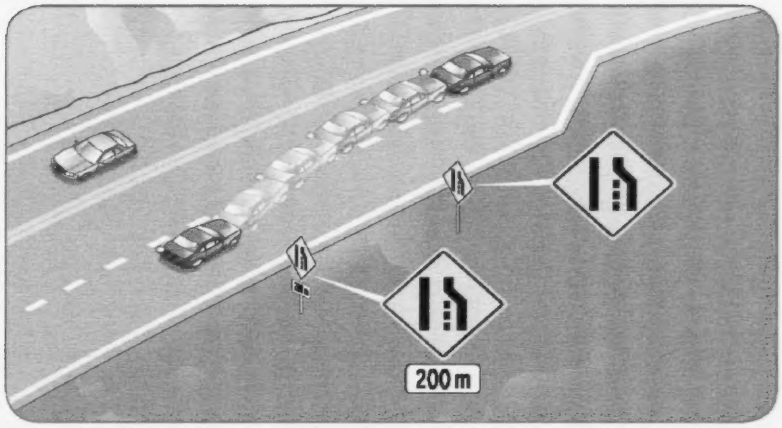
Merging

This sign tells you the right lane will end soon.

If you're driving in a lane that ends ahead, you need to change



A sign will tell you how far it is to the next passing lane. Keep right unless you are passing.



A sign will tell you when the passing lane is about to end. Vehicles in the right lane and the passing lane must merge before the passing lane ends.

lanes. Adjust your speed, keeping within the speed limit, and wait for a safe gap in the other lane.

If you are driving next to a lane that ends ahead, help the merging traffic by adjusting your speed or changing lanes.

Highway or freeway entrances and exits

These lanes are designed to help you safely enter and exit the freeway.

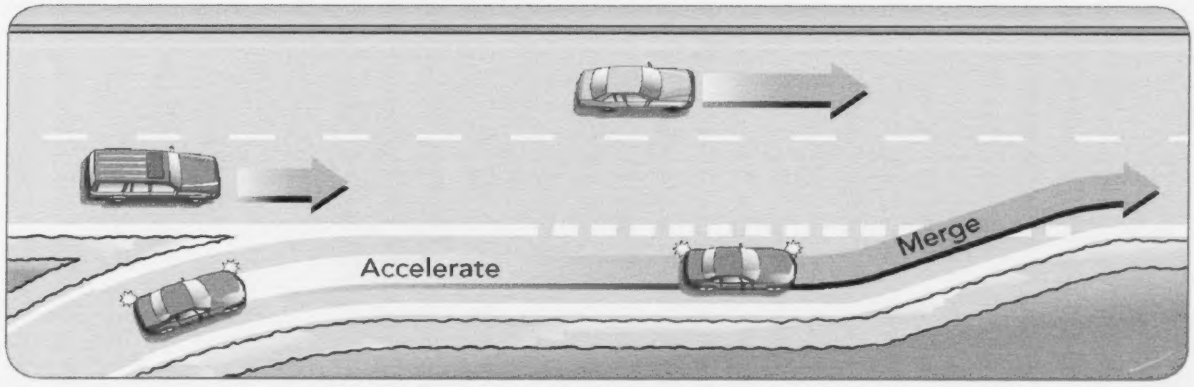
Entrance

The entrance consists of an entrance ramp, an acceleration lane and a merging area. Some freeway entrances have ramp meters: a traffic light that controls traffic entering the freeway by restricting the number of vehicles that may proceed along the entrance ramp.

warning!

Avoid stopping in the acceleration lane or merging area. You could risk being rear-ended.

- While you're on the entrance ramp, scan the freeway traffic for a safe gap.
- The acceleration lane is divided from the rest of the roadway by a solid white line. Use this lane to match your speed to the speed of traffic on the freeway.
- The merging area is divided from the freeway by a broken white line. Use this area to find a safe gap to merge with freeway traffic. Be aware that cycling is permitted on some freeways, so be careful not to cut in front of a cyclist.

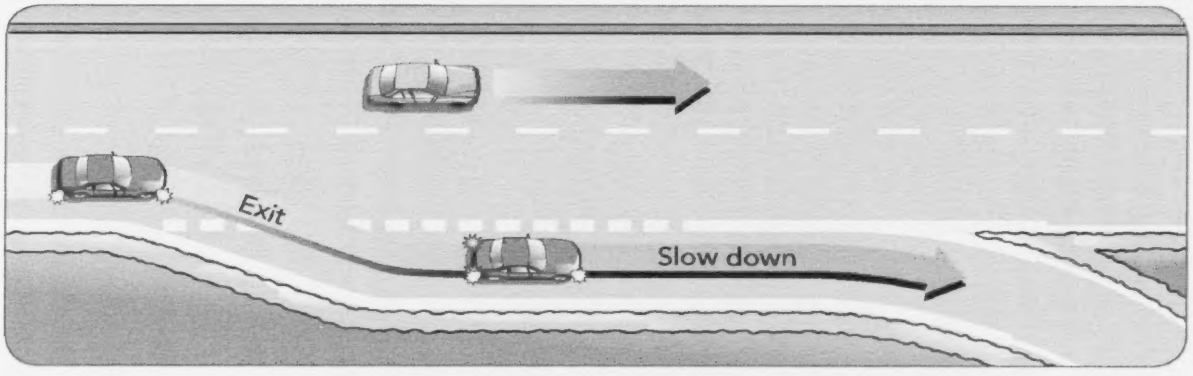


A highway entrance gives you a short distance to match your speed to the vehicles already on the highway. Observe the freeway traffic, make sure you have a space that is safe to move into, signal your intention and then move into traffic.

Exit

The exit lane allows you to move off the freeway and reduce your speed.

Most freeway exits are numbered. Before you start your trip, check a map to see which exit you will need to take. That way you can move to the right lane in plenty of time for the exit.



Signal your intention to turn off the highway, maintaining your speed until you enter the exit lane. Then slow down gradually as you prepare to enter roads with lower speed limits.

Strategies: Freeway courtesy

When you are driving in the right lane of a freeway, other drivers may try to merge from an entrance lane. It's not always easy for them to find a safe gap. Use these pointers to help them merge safely.

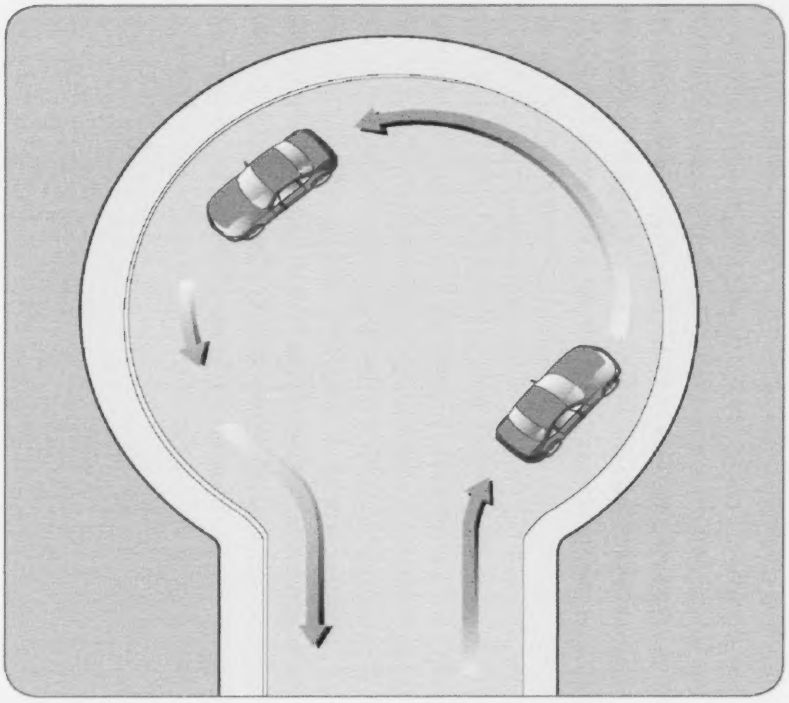
- Pull over into the left lane (if it's safe) to give them room to merge onto the freeway
- Adjust your speed to allow a large enough gap for them to move into safely.

Cul-de-sacs

A cul-de-sac is a street that's closed at one end. Most cul-de-sacs are designed so that you can turn your car around without needing to back up. Slow down and keep to the right. Most cul-de-sacs are in residential areas, so watch carefully for children playing, vehicles coming out of driveways and other hazards.

think about

Why parking is limited in residential cul-de-sacs.



Turning around

Sometimes you can turn around by doing a series of turns at intersections or by turning in a cul-de-sac. You may also be able to do a U-turn, a two-point turn or a three-point turn.

A two-point turn is done by stopping near the side of the road, backing into a driveway and then turning into the street to proceed in the opposite direction.

A three-point turn is done by making a sharp turn to the left in the middle of a block, and stopping just before the curb. To complete the three-point turn, back up to your right and then proceed to drive down the street in the opposite direction.

For both two- and three-point turns, you need to make sure it's clear and safe and that there is no other traffic nearby.

driving tip

When parking in a stall, it's usually safest to back in so you won't have to back out. Better still, if there are two empty facing stalls with no barrier between them, drive through one into the next so your vehicle is facing forward.

Parking tips and rules

Park where it's safe and legal. Signs, curb markings and common sense will tell you if you are allowed to park. You should park where you are not blocking traffic and where others can clearly see you. If you park where you shouldn't, you could be a hazard to others, you could be fined or your vehicle could be towed.

It's illegal to park:

- on a sidewalk or boulevard
- across the entrance to any driveway, back lane or intersection
- within five metres of a fire hydrant (measured from the point at the curb beside the hydrant)
- within six metres of a crosswalk or intersection
- within six metres of a stop sign or traffic light
- within 15 metres of the nearest rail of a railway crossing
- in a bicycle lane
- on a bridge or in a highway tunnel
- where your vehicle obstructs the visibility of a traffic sign
- where a traffic sign prohibits parking, or where the curb is painted yellow or red
- in a space for people with disabilities unless you display a disabled person parking permit in your windshield and your vehicle is carrying a person with a disability.

Park parallel to and within 30 centimetres (one foot) of the curb. If you're parked on a hill, turn the wheels to keep your vehicle from rolling into traffic. Turn the wheels:

- to the right when parking uphill without a curb or when parking downhill with or without a curb
- to the left when parking uphill with a curb.

Set the parking brake and leave the vehicle in gear:

- leave an automatic transmission in "park" gear
- with a standard transmission, place the vehicle in "reverse" if facing downhill, and "first" gear if facing uphill or if on a level surface.

5 see-think-do

in this chapter

- See
  - observation
  - hazard perception
- Think
  - assess the risk
  - choose a solution
- Do
  - speed control
  - steering
  - space margins
  - communication
- Using see-think-do

In the previous four chapters, you began developing your smart driving skills by learning the basics of driving:

- being a thinking driver
- maintaining a safe vehicle
- understanding signs, signals and road markings
- knowing the rules of the road.

This chapter will bring all of these concepts together and describe how to use them as part of **see-think-do**: a driving strategy that helps you to be a safe and competent driver.

see — scan for hazards. Pay attention to other road users and the areas where hazards could occur.

think — decide which hazards are the most dangerous. Think quickly about possible solutions. Decide on the safest solution.

do — do manoeuvres to keep yourself and others safe.

see-think-do

Whenever you drive, your eyes should be scanning the area around you to gather information. Good observation means knowing how to look and where to look. The next step is hazard perception — knowing what to look for.

Observation

Good observation involves looking ahead, beside and behind.

You in the driver's seat

You're driving along a city street, scanning well ahead. You check your mirrors. The car behind is keeping well back. There is an intersection ahead. You carefully scan the intersection to see if it's clear before you proceed.

Strategies: The observation cycle

Always keep your eyes moving while you're driving.

- Look well ahead
- Scan from one side of the road to the other, checking for potential hazards
- Glance in your rear- and side-view mirrors to keep track of what is happening behind you.

Then start all over again. You should complete the whole cycle every five to eight seconds.

warning!

Don't overdrive your ability to see. You should always be able to stop within the distance you can see.

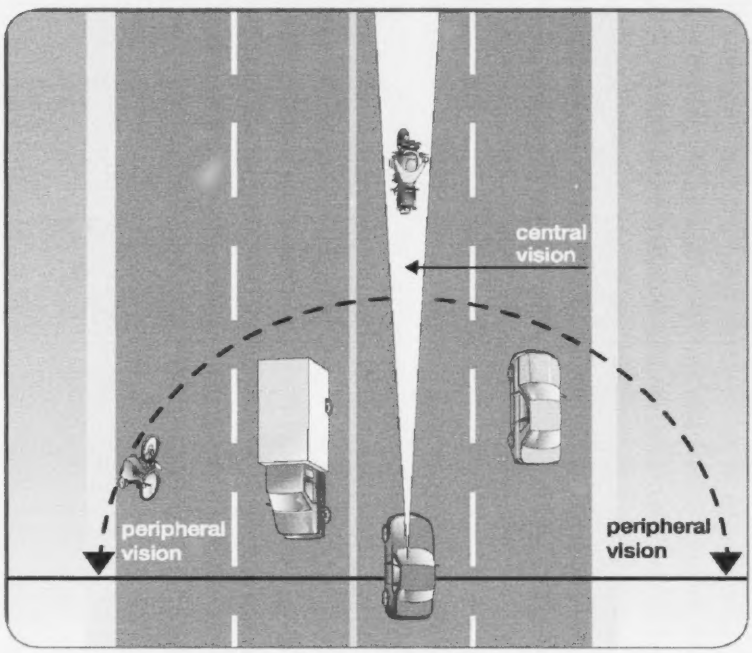
Observing ahead

Research shows that new drivers spend so much time looking at the road just in front of their vehicle that they often miss hazards further ahead. Make sure you know what's coming up by scanning at least 12 seconds ahead. This means look one to two blocks ahead in city driving and half a kilometre ahead on the highway. This will give you time to prepare for a potential hazard instead of being taken by surprise.

As you look ahead, scan to the left and right so you can see what's happening along the sides of the road. If you see cars parked by the side of the road, be careful. A child may be walking out from between them, or a door might be about to swing open.

driving tip

By looking ahead, you can avoid sudden stops, which increase your fuel consumption.



It's easiest to see things that are directly in front of you, in your central vision. It's important to also pay attention to things outside your central vision. Peripheral vision allows you to see more than what is directly in front of you.

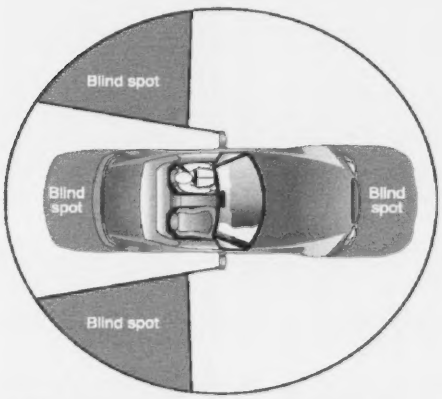
Observing behind

Your side- and rear-view mirrors let you know what is happening behind you. Adjust them to get the best possible view. Look in each mirror about every five to eight seconds and pay attention to what you see.

Rear-view mirrors — look in the rear-view mirror before you slow down or stop. Will the cars behind you have space to stop? If not, you may need to take action.

Side-view mirrors — use your side-view mirrors whenever you are planning to change your road position or direction. When you're pulling away from the right side of the road, you need to check your left mirror to make sure there are no cars coming from behind. If you're making a lane change to the right, check your right mirror to make sure there's enough space to move into.

Blind spots — even when your mirrors are properly adjusted, there are large areas that you can't see in your mirrors. These are called blind spots. The most dangerous blind spots are to the side. There are also blind spots below your field of vision to the front, rear and both sides of your vehicle.



Each vehicle has smaller blind spots at the front and at the back, as well as the two large blind spots on the sides. Their size depends on the shape and size of your vehicle.

Blind spot detectors, cameras — Some vehicles are equipped with blind spot detectors and/or back-up cameras. While these can help you to detect hazards in blind spots or behind the vehicle, they do not replace the need to turn your head to do a shoulder check or look behind.

Shoulder checks — whenever you plan to change your direction or road position, do a shoulder check to make sure the blind spot on that side is clear.

When you're going to turn right, for example, quickly check to the right just to make sure no one is in that space. And don't forget to do a mirror check and shoulder check before you open your door to get out of your vehicle. A cyclist or other vehicle could be coming up beside you.

driving tip

Try sitting in your vehicle and finding the areas you can't see even when you use your mirrors.

Do a shoulder check to be certain your blind spot is clear before you move your vehicle into another lane or in a different direction. Look at least 45 degrees over your shoulder in the direction you plan to move. If you are going to move to the right, check over your right shoulder. If you are going to move to the left, check over your left shoulder.

Strategies: Making your move

Check your mirrors and do a shoulder check whenever you plan to:

- pull out from the side of the road
- pull over to the side of the road
- change lanes
- turn left or turn right.

driving tip

Before you start to back up, give a quick warning tap on your horn if visibility is limited.

Backing up — before you back up, make sure you do a 360 degree vision check. Look all around the vehicle using shoulder checks and mirror checks, and then turn your body to look out the rear window while backing up. Be especially careful when you're backing out of a driveway. It's easy to miss seeing children, pets, pedestrians, cyclists and people in wheelchairs. If you've been stopped for some time, walk around the back of your vehicle to check that your path is clear. Better yet, try to back into driveways and parking spots so you can drive out facing forward.

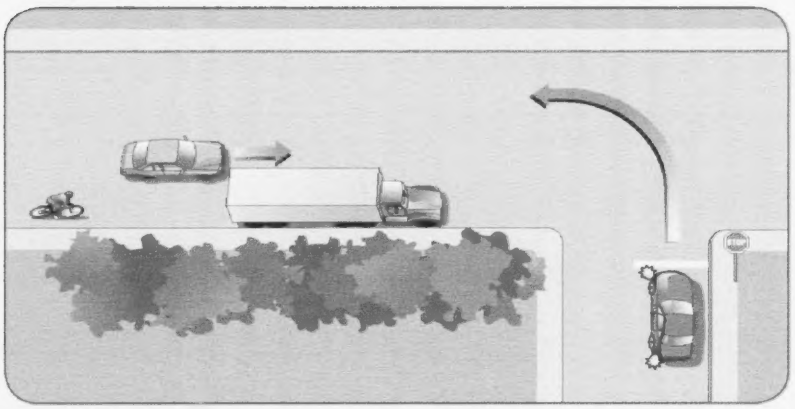
crash fact

More than 40 per cent of all collisions that result in injuries or fatalities happen at intersections.

Observing at intersections

Look well ahead as you approach an intersection. Check for signs, signals and other clues about whether you will need to stop.

As you're approaching an intersection, scan the road you are crossing. Look left, centre, right, then glance left again. If an oncoming vehicle is turning left, take extra care; the driver may not see you. And check crosswalks you intend to cross to make sure they are clear.



Bushes and large vehicles are two of the many things that could block your view of an intersection and oncoming traffic.

think about

What other things might block your view of an intersection?

Stopping and starting up again — as you slow down to stop, check your mirrors for traffic behind you. Then make sure you have a clear view of the intersection. If your view is blocked, you may need to move slowly into the intersection so you can see clearly before going ahead.

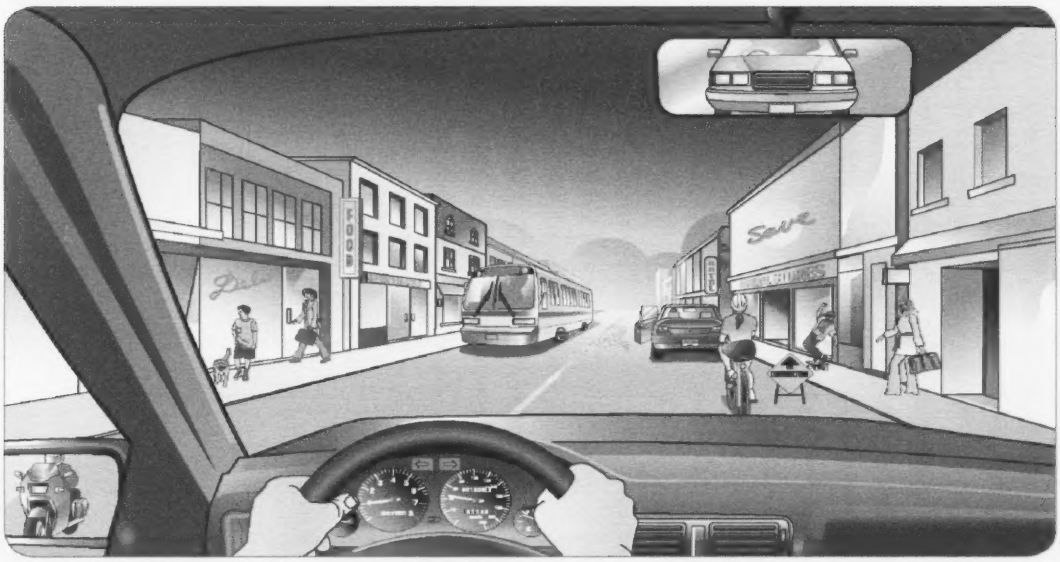
Turning — shoulder check to make sure a cyclist or other road user hasn't come up beside you. Then scan the intersection just as you begin to move forward. Make sure that your eyes are looking in the direction you want to go once you begin your turn.

Hazard perception

You in the driver's seat

You're driving in the rain, using your eyes to gather information ahead, to the sides and in your mirrors. Just ahead there's a cyclist. Further on, a bus has stopped to let passengers out. Behind you is a driver who seems to be moving up too close behind you. Suddenly, the door of a parked car swings open right in front of the cyclist. Will the cyclist swerve or fall? You take your foot off the accelerator to slow down, and get ready to put your foot on the brake.

Driving safely means looking out for hazards. A hazard is anything in the driving environment that could harm you or other road users. Hazard perception is the skill of identifying these risks. To share the road safely, train yourself to look for other road users and all objects or road surfaces that might cause problems for you or for others in the driving environment. As you drive, think about where hazards could occur.



The driving environment includes everything around you, including other road users, road conditions, weather conditions and all activities at the side of the road that might affect you.

Space conflicts

A space conflict happens when two road users try to move into the same space at the same time. To drive safely, you need to keep areas of space, called space margins, around your vehicle. If you need to stop suddenly, a driver too close behind you could cause a space conflict. Some other space conflicts are:

- a vehicle pulling into your path
- a pedestrian stepping onto the road in front of your vehicle
- a vehicle backing out of a driveway.

think about

You are about to pull away from the side of the road into traffic. Where should you look? What should you look for?

Surprises

Anything unpredictable is a hazard. A car door opening suddenly could be a surprise for a cyclist. If the cyclist swerves to avoid it or falls in front of you, you could be surprised as well. To avoid surprises, think well ahead and ask yourself what could possibly happen in the driving environment. Some other surprises are:

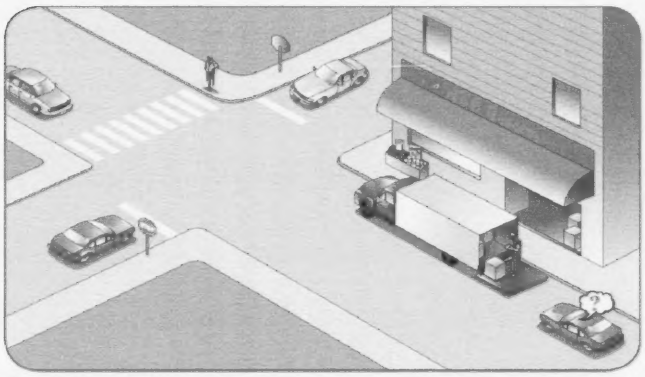
- a driver weaving back and forth
- a poorly loaded pickup truck: something might fall
- a skateboarder who might suddenly dart onto the road.

Vision blocks

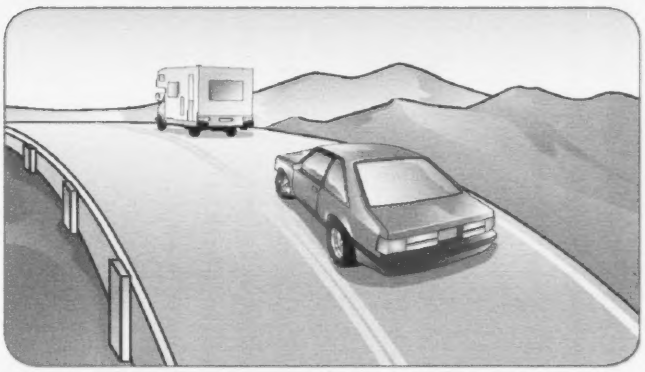
Having your vision blocked is a hazard. Some examples of vision blocks are:

- a bus that blocks your view of people about to cross the street
- a curve or hill that doesn't let you see what's ahead
- a large truck in the next lane
- fog, rain or snow.

Be very careful when you can't see the whole driving scene.



Be extra cautious when anything blocks your view. What could the driver of the blue car miss?



Never pass when you are approaching the top of a hill. You don't know what hazards may be on the other side of the hill.

Poor road conditions

Poor road surfaces are a hazard because they can affect your traction and steering. Loose gravel, ice or rain can cause you to lose control unless you're prepared. Some other poor road conditions are:

- a paved road that suddenly changes into a gravel one
- wet or icy patches
- large puddles after a rainstorm.

see-think-do

Whenever you drive, you will see hazards. To make good driving decisions, follow this two-step process:

1. Assess the risk.
2. Choose the best solution.

Assess the risk

You in the driver's seat – part 1

You are driving down a two-lane highway, and are just starting into a sharp curve. You can't see very far ahead.

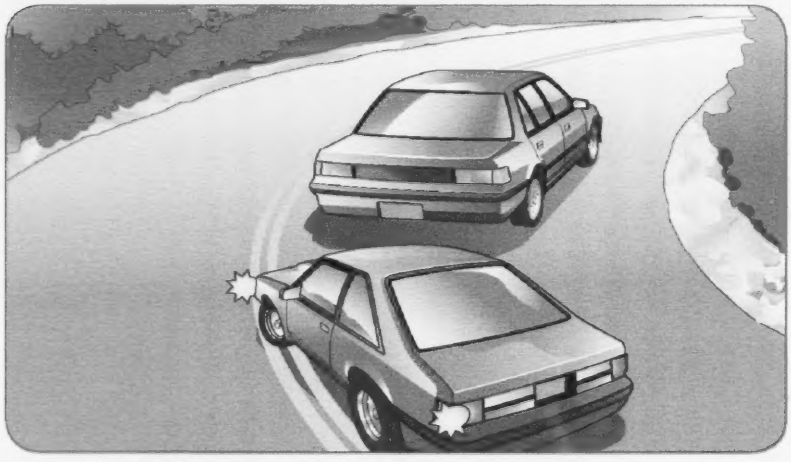
In this scene, the risk is moderate. You can't see well ahead, so you need to slow down a little and be cautious.

You in the driver's seat – part 2

As you go into the curve, a driver in a red car behind you pulls out to pass, even though the highway is divided by a solid double yellow line.

Now the risk increases. This is not a good time for that driver to pass because there may be all kinds of hazards just around the curve.

To assess just how risky this situation is, ask yourself what could happen. What if the driver in the red car finds an unexpected obstacle just around the curve? That driver may have to slow down and stop suddenly or pull back into your lane. That means you need to be ready to slow down or stop if necessary.



If you are the driver of the blue car, what are the possible risks in this situation?

You in the driver's seat – part 3

As you come around the curve, you see a large truck in the approaching lane. The car that is passing you may cut in front of you, trying to get out of the way of the truck. To make matters worse, you see a fallen branch on the road ahead.

When you find yourself in a situation with more than one hazard, what do you do? You need to figure out which hazard is the most dangerous.

What is the most dangerous hazard in this scene?

Choose a solution

You in the driver's seat – part 4

Here you are, with a car trying to squeeze in front of you. What solutions can you think of? You could:

- *slow down*
- *steer out of the way*
- *honk your horn.*

All these solutions involve speed control, steering, space margins and communication.

As you think of possible solutions, try to predict the possible outcomes of each one. Here's a slowed-down version of what your thinking process might look like.

Speed control

- Can I slow down quickly, or is the road too slippery? Will I skid?
- Can my vehicle stop that quickly? Are my brakes and tire tread good enough?

Steering

- If I steer onto the right shoulder, can I keep control of the car?

Space margins

- Do I have space to stop safely? Is there space ahead? Space behind? Is there a car behind that might crash into me if I stop suddenly?
- Do I have enough space to steer onto the shoulder?

Communication

- If I honk the horn, will it help to alert the driver?

Usually, the solution you choose depends on where the space is. Is there enough space in front? To the side? Space will allow you to get out of the situation safely.

Some decisions have to be made in seconds. This means you need lots of practice in assessing risk and choosing the best solution. Practise by thinking ahead about what you would do in emergency situations.

think about

You are passing an elementary school. A soccer ball rolls onto the road about half a block ahead. Assess the risk: what is the major risk? Choose the best solution: what would you do?

see-think-do

Once you've assessed the risk and have chosen a solution, you need to use your driving skills to perform the manoeuvre. The "do" step of see-think-do involves:

- speed control
- steering
- space margins
- communication.

All of your driving manoeuvres will combine these four skills, whether you are driving straight, turning at an intersection or swerving to avoid a hazard.

You in the driver's seat

You're driving along a rural road at 80 km/h. A yellow sign warns there's a sharp curve ahead. You take your foot off the accelerator and apply the brake to slow down to 30 km/h before the curve. At the midpoint of the curve, you accelerate slightly, and speed up once more on a straight stretch. Then you notice something up ahead that looks like a road construction sign. You take your foot off the accelerator to slow down.

crash fact

Speeding kills and injures people on Yukon roads every year.

Speed control

You are using the tools of speed control: the accelerator and the brake. If you drive a vehicle with a standard transmission, you'll also use the gears to help you control your speed. Good speed control means maintaining appropriate and steady speeds based on the driving conditions.

Appropriate speeds

Speeding is risky, but the safest speed isn't always the slowest speed. If you drive much slower than surrounding traffic, other drivers might get frustrated and try to pass you.

Aim for a speed that's appropriate for the driving conditions. The posted speed is the maximum for ideal conditions only. Choose a slower speed if the conditions are not ideal, for instance, if the roads are slippery or visibility is limited.

Unless a sign tells you otherwise, speed limits are:

- 50 km/h within cities and towns
- 80 km/h outside cities and towns.

driving tip

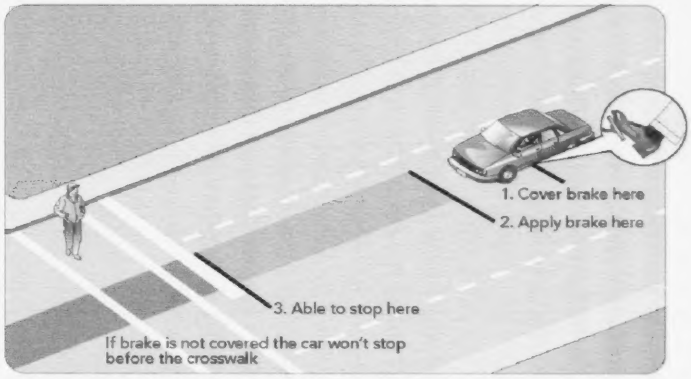
Driving at a steady speed saves fuel. Suddenly changing your speed or driving over the speed limit will increase your fuel consumption.

Steady speeds

To keep a steady speed, use your brake and accelerator smoothly. For instance, driving up to a stop sign quickly and then hitting the brake isn't good for your passengers or your vehicle. It can also cause the driver behind to crash into the rear of your vehicle.

To keep your driving speed smooth and steady, you need to anticipate. When you see a stop sign, start to slow down. Scan for hazards ahead, and use your brakes to gradually slow your vehicle.

Prepare yourself when you see a hazard ahead. Take your foot off the accelerator and cover the brake by resting your foot lightly on the brake pedal without activating the brake. Your vehicle will slow slightly and you will be able to respond more quickly if you must stop.



Physics and driving

You need to pay attention to the laws of physics when you drive.

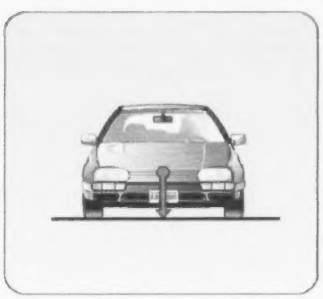
Traction — this is the grip your tires have on the road. Slippery or sandy road surfaces, worn tires, and under- or over-inflated tires that don't grab the road will reduce traction. Slow down if you are on a poor road surface.

Inertia — this is the tendency for moving objects, in this case, you and your vehicle, to keep moving forward in a straight line. When you brake, inertia tries to keep your vehicle moving. When you go around a curve, inertia tries to keep you going in a straight line. The faster you are going, the greater the force of inertia.

Gravity — this is the force that pulls everything towards earth. It's the reason your vehicle slows down going up a hill and speeds up coming down. It's important to remember this when you're going downhill because your vehicle will need a longer distance to stop.

Centre of gravity — this is the point around which all of an object's weight is balanced. The centre of gravity for any object can change. For example, a tightrope walker may carry a pole to lower the body's centre of gravity and make it easier to balance.

Most vehicles are built on the same principle: low enough to the ground so they balance well on hills, curves and uneven road surfaces. Some vehicles, for example, some sports utility vehicles, pickup trucks and camper vans, have a higher centre of gravity. Whenever the height of a vehicle or its load rises, the centre of gravity also rises. A vehicle with a higher centre of gravity is less stable on uneven road surfaces and is more likely to tip over on a curve taken at higher speeds.
You need to remember this if you are driving one of these types of vehicles.



think about

What you would do to help prevent a roll-over when driving a vehicle with a higher centre of gravity (or a heavy car top carrier).

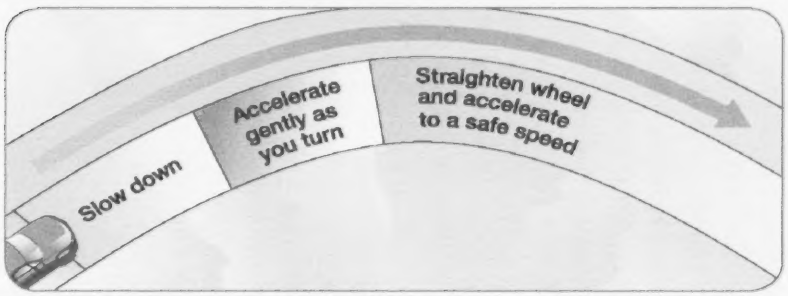
The blue car has a low centre of gravity. On a curve, the weight shifts to one side but the car remains stable. The truck, with its large wheels, has a much higher centre of gravity. On a flat surface it is stable, but when the weight shifts on a curve, the truck becomes unstable and may roll.

Handling curves

When you go around a curve, inertia tries to keep your vehicle going in a straight line, while traction tries to keep your tires sticking to the curved pavement. The faster you travel, the more pressure is exerted on the outside front tire. If you are going too fast, inertia will cause your vehicle to go off the road. If you brake, your vehicle may skid. The problem is increased if the road is slippery or uneven. The best practice is to slow down before the curve and avoid braking in it.

If you do start to lose traction in a curve, don't brake. Ease off the accelerator and re-apply gently when you regain traction.

Before you enter a curve, slow down to a speed that will allow you to go through the curve without using your brakes. When you reach the middle of the curve, begin to straighten your wheels and accelerate to help you leave the curve.



warning!

It is illegal to coast downhill in neutral or with the clutch in. You need to be in gear to safely control your vehicle.

Gear use

If you're driving a vehicle with a standard transmission, you need to be able to choose the appropriate gear and shift smoothly. You need practice to coordinate the clutch, accelerator and gearshift.

Steering

You in the driver's seat

You are about to make a left turn at a major intersection. You're a bit nervous because you haven't been driving long. You see a gap in the oncoming traffic, so you let your eyes guide you as you steer in a smooth arc, ending up in the correct lane.

Steering, like any skill, takes practice. Practice will help you coordinate your hands and your eyes so that you can drive in a straight line or a smooth arc. The two main principles of good steering are controlling the wheel and maintaining good road position.

warning!

Loading up your vehicle with extra weight can cause it to steer very differently, especially on curves. Don't overload your vehicle. Check your owner's manual for weight limit information.

driving tip

In a vehicle equipped with an air bag in the steering wheel, the 9 and 3 position, or even the 8 and 4 position, may be the best choices. If the airbag went off when your hands were in the 10 and 2 position, your hands could hit your face.

Controlling the wheel

Keep both hands on the outside of the steering wheel. If you drive with your hands inside the wheel, your hands could be injured in a crash. You may sometimes have to steer with only one hand when you are changing gears or using a dashboard control, but try to use both hands when possible. This gives you better control, and also shortens your response time when you see a hazard.

Where should you put your hands? Imagine that your steering wheel is a clock. Put your hands at an equal height at the 9 and 3 position, or the 10 and 2 position, whichever is most comfortable.

Keeping good road position

Steer the vehicle in a smooth line so there is little side-to-side movement when you're driving. The best way to do this is to look well ahead in the direction you want to go. Your peripheral vision will help you centre your vehicle and keep you moving in a straight line. When you turn, look well ahead in the direction you are turning. This will help you turn in a smooth arc.

Space margins

You in the driver's seat

You are driving behind someone who is travelling at 30 km/h in a 50 km/h zone. You wouldn't mind so much, but you're already late for an appointment. There's no chance to pass on this residential street. You think it might be a good idea to pull up closer behind the driver to get him to hurry up.

driving tip

When you stop behind another vehicle at an intersection, leave about one car length between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. This way, you will have room to move if you need it. Allow more space when stopped directly behind a large vehicle so you can see more around it.

Tailgating, which is following too closely behind the vehicle in front, is a major cause of crashes. If you tailgate, the vehicle in front can block your view of hazards ahead. Worse, if the vehicle stops suddenly, you have no time to slow down and stop safely. If you rear-end the other driver, you will be held responsible for the crash.

Stopping

Stopping your vehicle is more than just pressing on the brake pedal.

When you see a problem ahead while you're driving, it will take you about three-quarters of a second to **see-think** and another three-quarters of a second of **do**. Only then will your vehicle begin to slow down.

This is why it is so important to allow enough space in front.

see — a hazard

think — decide to stop

do — place your foot on the brake pedal until you stop.

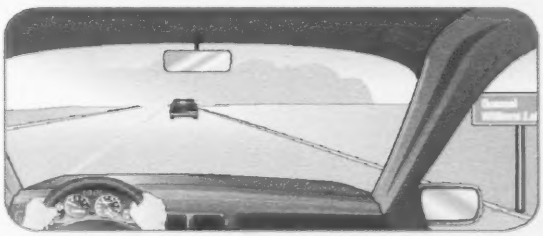
Space in front — the three-second rule

Always leave a safe following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front. You need at least three seconds of space in front in good weather and road conditions. Increase your following distance to three seconds on high-speed roads and to four seconds in bad weather conditions or on uneven or slippery roads.

Allow at least four seconds following distance when you're behind a large vehicle that could block your vision, or a motorcycle that could stop very quickly. It's also a good idea to keep at least a four-second following distance if a vehicle is following close behind you, or when you are following another vehicle on an unpaved road where dust or gravel may obscure vision and hide hazards.

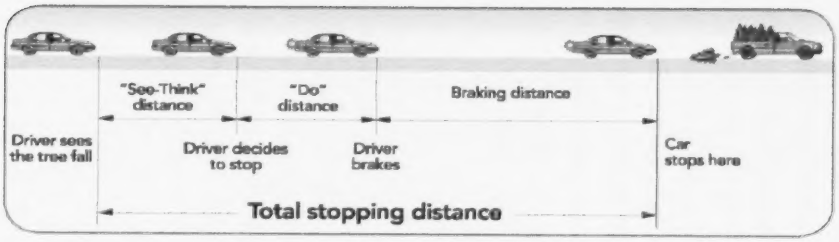
On a highway, measure a three-second space by picking an object ahead that will not move.

When the vehicle in front of you passes that object, begin your count: one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three.



If you reach the object as you say "three" you are keeping a three-second following distance.

Total stopping distance is the distance your vehicle will travel from the moment you notice a hazard until the moment your vehicle stops. You need time to see, think and do before your brakes even begin to slow your vehicle. Braking distance depends on your speed, your vehicle and road conditions. Always allow enough following distance.



Space behind

What do you do when someone is tailgating you? You can't control the space behind you in the same way as the space in front. What you can do is slow down slightly to increase your space in front. This way, if you have to stop, you can stop more gradually and there will be less chance of the person behind crashing into you. Other options are to move into another lane or to pull over to the side and let the tailgater pass.

warning!

If you are turning left off a highway onto a driveway or side road, watch your mirrors and make sure you have plenty of space behind you. The cars behind may not be prepared to slow down for you.

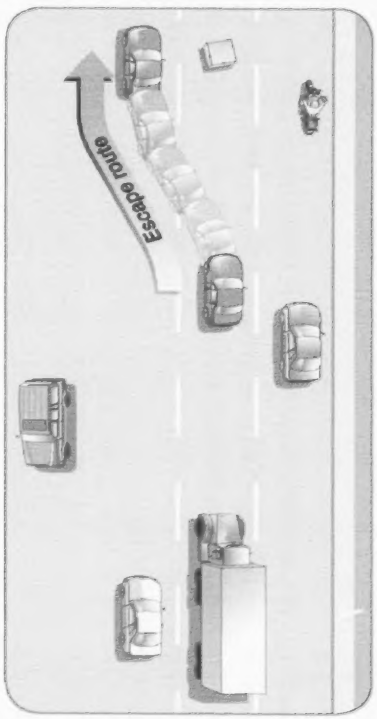
Space beside

Keep at least one metre of clear space on each side of your vehicle while you're driving. When you're passing pedestrians, cyclists or other vehicles, allow as much room as possible, at least one metre, and more if you are going at a faster speed. Increase your side space margins even more when visibility or road conditions are poor.

Lane position

driving tip

By looking ahead, keeping good space margins and anticipating road hazards, you can avoid sudden stops and changes in speed. These safe driving habits also save fuel.



Try to leave yourself an escape route when you are driving on a multi-lane highway. Then, if something happens in front, you can pull into another lane to avoid trouble.

When you're deciding where to position your vehicle in the lane, there are several things to consider.

- On a two-lane road, stay fairly close to the centre line so other vehicles do not move into your lane space
- In the curb lane, stay well away from hazards on the side, such as car doors that might open
- In most lanes, drive near the centre of the lane
- Avoid driving in other drivers' blind spots.

On a multi-lane road, the right lane is often the safest one to choose. It keeps you away from oncoming traffic and it's less likely that another driver will tailgate you.

driving tip

Did you know that, in ideal conditions, it takes most vehicles stopped at an intersection about:

- two seconds per lane to go straight across
- five seconds to turn right and get up to 50 km/h
- seven seconds to turn left and get up to 50 km/h (allow extra time if you need to cross several lanes).

Remember to add an extra two seconds for safety.

You in the driver's seat

You're waiting at a stop sign. The traffic seems endless. Just when you think it's safe to cross the intersection, another car comes into view.

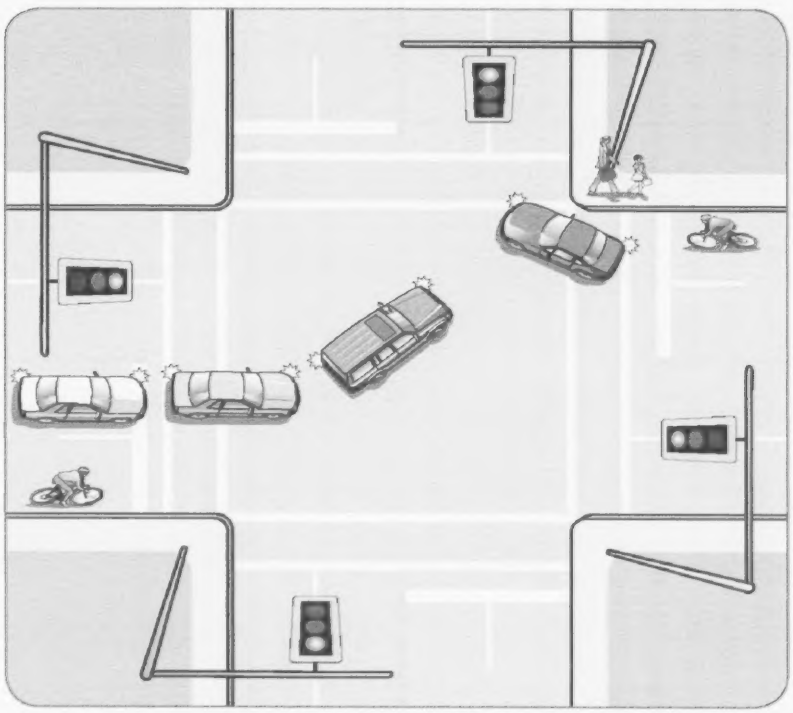
What would you do?

Choosing a safe gap

The space you need to get across an intersection safely or to merge into a line of traffic is called a gap. Deciding whether a gap is big enough to be safe isn't always easy. You need to consider several things:

- the speed of the traffic
- the time it will take to do your manoeuvre
- the time it will take your vehicle to get up to the speed of the traffic flow.

Be careful not to underestimate the speed of approaching motorcycles or bicycles. They are often travelling much faster than they appear to be.

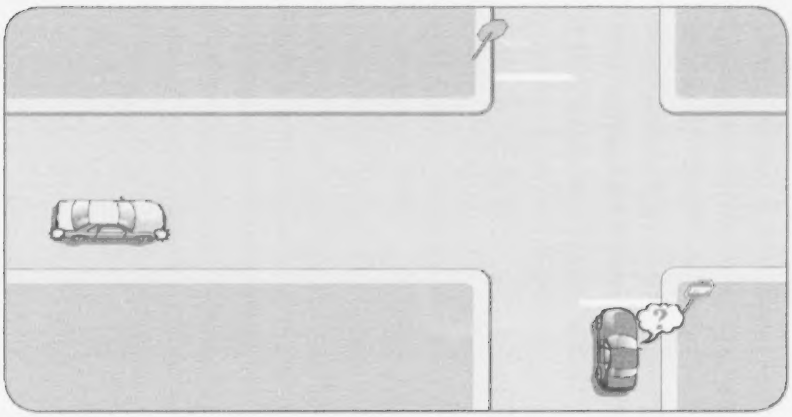


The driver of the blue car and the driver of the station wagon may have a problem if either of them moves out of correct lane position when they are turning. In this situation, time your turn so you won't have a space conflict with the other driver. If there's any doubt about who should go first, the driver making the left turn should yield.

You in the driver's seat

Your car is at a stop sign and you're waiting to cross the intersection. The intersection is clear except for a car approaching from the left. Its right turn signal is on. If this car turns right before it reaches you, you can safely cross the intersection right now. But the driver isn't slowing down, and she's not pulling over to the right.

What would you do?



Is the driver of the grey car really going to turn right?

Communication

In this scene, the other driver is confusing you by giving mixed messages. Her turn signal shows that she's planning to turn, but the lane position and speed of her vehicle suggest she's planning on going straight. In this situation, it is better to wait and see what she does before crossing the intersection.

Sharing the road safely means understanding the tools of communication and using them effectively.

Turn signals

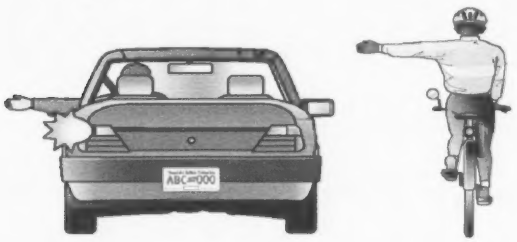
Your primary communication tools are your turn signals. Always use your turn signal to let people know you are planning to turn, change lanes, pull out or pull over.

When you use your turn signal:

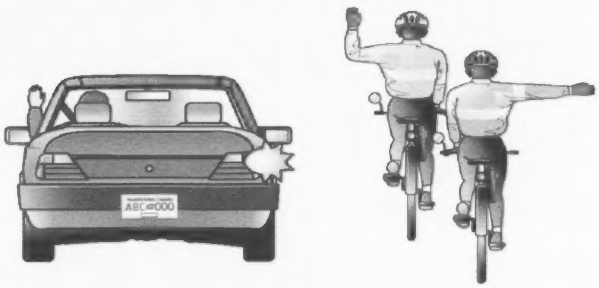
- **be timely** — signal well ahead to give other road users plenty of warning.
- **be clear** — don't apply your turn signal too soon and confuse other people. If you plan to turn right at the next intersection and there are a number of driveways and lanes before you reach the intersection, wait until you are close enough that people can see exactly where you are planning to turn.

- **mean what you say** — your turn signal is designed to switch off after you have made a turn, but sometimes it doesn't. Make sure that your signal has cancelled after you turn so it doesn't give the wrong message.

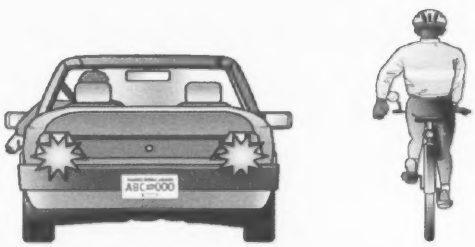
There are times when an automatic turn signal is hard to see, for example, if you're pulling out from a line of parked vehicles. In these situations, use a hand signal in addition to the turn signal.



Signalling a left turn.



Signalling a right turn. Cyclists may use either of these hand signals.



Signalling a stop.

Lights

Your vehicle has different types of lights to help you see and be seen. The lights that you use most for communication are brake lights, backup lights and hazard lights.

Brake lights — these are visible when the brake is applied. When you see these lights on the car ahead, you know the driver is slowing down and perhaps planning to stop. Let others know you intend to slow down or stop by tapping lightly on your brake. This will activate the brake lights.

Backup lights — these show that the vehicle is in reverse, and the driver is backing up or intends to back up.

driving tip

Watch for backup lights when you are driving in a parking lot. Not only do they warn you that you need to slow down, they also tell you where you might find a parking space.

Hazard lights — these let people know you have stopped for an emergency. Truck drivers also use them to warn that they are travelling well below the speed limit.

Horn

The horn is a useful communication tool if it's used properly. For example, if you see someone start to pull out of a driveway without looking, a light tap on the horn will let the other driver know you're there. Only use the horn when it gives a useful signal to other drivers and helps prevent a crash.

Eye contact

You can often communicate with other road users just by using your eyes. When you stop for pedestrians, make eye contact so pedestrians know you have seen them and it is safe for them to cross. Do the same for other drivers, motorcycle riders and cyclists when you are stopped at an intersection.

Body language

Waving your hand to let another driver proceed, or a pedestrian cross in front of you, is generally not a good idea. The other driver or pedestrian may face hazards you can't see.

Vehicle language

You can tell a lot about what a driver is going to do by watching "vehicle language." If a vehicle moves over in the lane, the driver may be planning to change lanes or turn. If the vehicle slows down when approaching a corner, the driver may be planning to turn. When you see a parked vehicle with its wheels turned out, the driver may be planning to pull out into traffic.

driving tip

When you carry a load that extends behind your vehicle, attach a red flag to the end of the load as a warning to other drivers.

Using see-think-do

Research shows that new drivers often panic and even freeze in an emergency. You can avoid this by giving yourself plenty of time and space to react, and practise using the **see-think-do** strategy. If you are driving at a safe speed, looking well ahead, and keeping alert and focused, you should have time to see problems coming up, think of possible solutions and take actions that will help keep you safe.

think about

A parked car starts to pull out just in front of you. How can you use your "do" skills: speed control, steering, space margins and communication?

6 sharing the road

in this chapter

- Sharing the road safely
- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Motorcycle riders
- Passenger vehicles
- Large vehicles
- School buses
- Public transit buses
- Emergency vehicles
- Emergency workers
- Construction zones
- Trains
- Animals

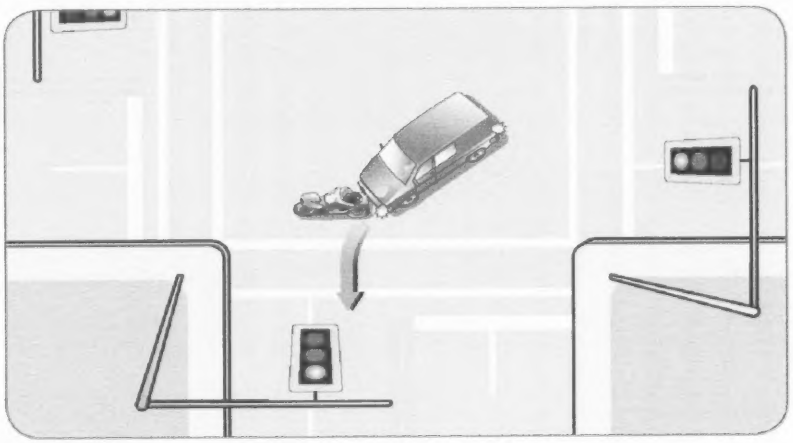
The last five chapters presented important driving information that can help you develop your smart driving skills. The next three chapters give suggestions on how you can apply this information to your driving. Knowing how to share the road is an important part of keeping safe when driving. In this chapter, you will learn who you share the road with and how to share the road with them in safety.

Sharing the road safely

At the scene of a crash

Walter is speeding along Main Street in his van. He's in a hurry to turn left at the intersection before the light turns. He gets into the intersection and quickly swings to the left. Jodi is riding her motorcycle along Main Street in the opposite direction. She wants to go straight through, and she has just enough time to make it before the light turns yellow. Jodi assumes that Walter has seen her.

The result is a crash that seriously injures Jodi and sends Walter to the hospital with minor injuries.



In this crash scene, both Walter and Jodi tried to move into the same space at the same time. By law, Walter should have stopped for Jodi before making his turn. But he didn't see the motorcycle coming. Jodi may have had the right-of-way, but she still should have looked carefully for vehicles in the intersection before riding through.

Be aware of other road users who may want to use the space into which you plan to move.

The way to avoid crashes is to make sure that the space you plan to move into will be empty. To share the road safely with others, use your **see-think-do** skills.

see-think-do

Use your observation skills. Scan the intersection from left to right, and left again, looking for hazards. Walter started across the intersection without checking to make sure the road was clear.

see-think-do

When another road user is approaching the space you were planning to use, you need to assess the risk, then choose the safest solution.

think about

How you'd feel if you injured or killed someone while you were driving. What difference would this make to the rest of your life? Who else would be affected?

It's also important to know the right-of-way rules. When two or more road users want the same space, right-of-way rules tell you which road user should yield. However, other road users make mistakes and do unexpected things. It may not always be easy to decide who has the right-of-way. If in doubt, always be ready to give the right-of-way.

To learn more about right-of-way rules, turn to **chapter 4, rules of the road.**

see-think-do

Speed control

Drive at a safe speed. That way you will have time to stop if needed.

Steering

Keep both hands on the outside of the wheel to maintain good steering control.

Space margins

If you keep well away from other road users, there will be less chance of space conflicts. You will have room to stop or to steer around if others start moving into your space.

Communication

Let other road users know what you are doing so they can react in time. Watch for communication from other road users.

How to share the road

Next time you are stopped at a busy intersection, look around and count the different types of road users you can see. You share the roads with a number of different road users, including:

- pedestrians (for example, children, people in wheelchairs and traffic control people)
- cyclists
- motorcyclists
- drivers of:
  - passenger vehicles
  - large vehicles (motorhomes and commercial vehicles)
  - buses (school and public transit)
  - emergency vehicles
  - trains.

To share the road safely, you need to use all of your **see-think-do** skills. You also need to understand how different road users use the road. The following sections highlight some of the main points to keep in mind for each type of road user.

Pedestrians

You always need to watch out for pedestrians. Like all road users, they can be unpredictable. You never know when a child might dash into the street, or someone might step out from behind a parked car. Pedestrians are often hard to see, especially at night.

see

Scan at crosswalks and intersections — many pedestrians are unaware of the distance it takes a vehicle to stop. They may suddenly step out onto the street without warning. Any time you approach a crosswalk or intersection:

- be aware of vision blocks. Don't pass if you see a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk in the next lane. It's illegal and unsafe. The driver could be stopped to let pedestrians cross the road.
- don't enter a crosswalk without checking to see that it's empty, even when the light is green. Someone may be trying to dash across. People who find it difficult to cross the road quickly, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and parents walking with young children, may still be in the crosswalk.
- watch out for pedestrians on the cross street whenever you make a turn.

warning!

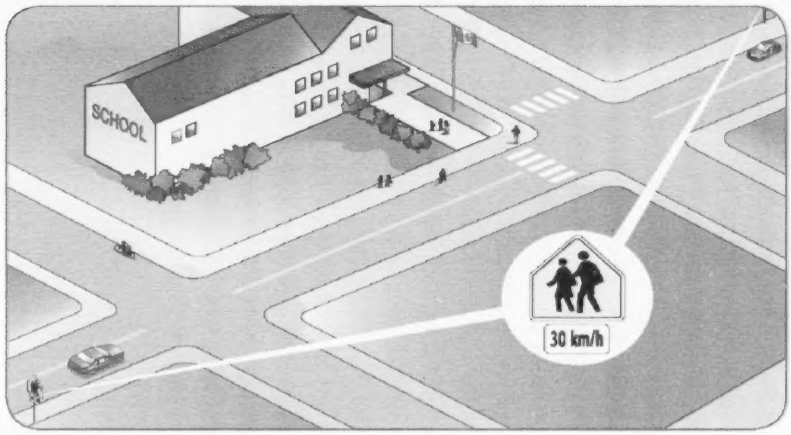
Crosswalks with flashing green lights are controlled by pedestrians. When you see a pedestrian standing near this type of crosswalk, you know that they have probably pressed the button and the light is about to change. Slow down and be prepared to stop.

Pay attention at school zones and playgrounds — observe carefully when driving in school and playground zones. Smaller children are harder to see than adults and are less predictable.

As you approach a school zone at a time when children may be arriving, leaving or taking their lunch hour, look well ahead for school patrols or crossing supervisors. You must obey them at all times.

For details on speed limits for school and playground zones, see **chapter 3, signs, signals and road markings.**

When you see a school zone sign with a 30 km/h posted speed, slow down to that speed. The speed limit is in effect between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on school days, or the hours shown on the sign. When you reach the end school zone sign on the other side of the street, you'll know you have reached the end of the 30 km/h zone.



driving tip

You must always be prepared to stop if you see a pedestrian who is about to step out in front of you. But don't encourage jaywalking (crossing between intersections) by stopping and inviting pedestrians to cross. The car behind you may not be expecting you to stop and may crash into you. Drivers in the other lanes may not see the pedestrians crossing in front of your vehicle and may hit them.

Observe carefully in residential areas — children and others may move in unpredicted ways. Remember, a ball or a hockey net can mean children are playing nearby.

Be especially careful when you're backing up. Check around your car before you get into it, then do a 360-degree vision check before moving. It's important to continue checking because you could easily back into a child or a family pet if you aren't observing carefully.

Watch for pedestrians with disabilities — take extra care if you see a person who's visually impaired. (They may be carrying a white cane or accompanied by a guide dog.) Often, they will raise their cane when they're uncertain about crossing the street safely. That is your signal to stop and give the person the right-of-way. Don't startle them or their guide dog by racing your engine or honking your horn.

Watch for people in wheelchairs travelling along the side of the road, especially when you are planning to make a right turn.

People in motorized wheelchairs also share the roads. While wheelchairs should be on the sidewalk, not all roads have sidewalks. Also, sidewalks may be too rough or narrow to travel on, or difficult to access.

think

Know the rules — you must yield to pedestrians:

- in marked crosswalks, if the pedestrian is close to your half of the road
- at intersections (pedestrians near your half of the road still have the right-of-way even when there is no marked crosswalk)
- when turning
- when entering a road from a driveway or alley.

It is always the driver's responsibility to avoid hitting a pedestrian.

do

Speed control and space margins

Slow down when you see pedestrians who might enter your path, and give them plenty of room.

Strategies: Being a safe pedestrian

Just as drivers need to carefully observe for pedestrians, pedestrians also need to carefully observe for drivers. You can make yourself safer when you are walking by remembering a few simple rules.

- Do not leave the curb unless you are sure the approaching vehicles on the cross street have stopped or will stop.
- Watch for vehicles that are turning.
- Always hold a child's hand while crossing the street until he or she is old enough to understand safety rules.
- Do not start to cross if the traffic signal is flashing a warning (for example, an orange hand).
- Use crosswalks. Don't jaywalk.
- Always activate the pedestrian crossing signal if there is one.

Cyclists

Cyclists commute to work as well as ride for recreation, so you can expect to see them on the road at any time of the day or night. Be aware that bicycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities on the road as drivers. Observe carefully at all times. Cyclists, like pedestrians, are vulnerable.

fast fact

Children have poor peripheral vision, and often find it hard to judge the speed and distance of oncoming vehicles. They may not know the traffic rules or how much room it takes vehicles to stop.

Be very careful near children on bicycles. Children are used to adults watching out for them, so they tend to be unaware of danger.

see

Shoulder check — shoulder checking is important because bicycles and riders are narrow and can easily be hidden in your blind spot. Make sure you shoulder check before you:

- open your door to get out of your vehicle. Check your side mirror as well. One of the most common causes of crashes involving cyclists is drivers who swing their doors open without checking.
- pull away from the curb
- move to the right.

Pay attention at night — observe carefully, and watch for bicycles coming in from side streets. Some cyclists may not have lights, reflectors or reflective gear.

Be careful when passing — before you pass another vehicle, make sure you check for oncoming cyclists and cyclists in front of the vehicle you are passing.

Scan at intersections — be very careful to:

- shoulder check for bicycles before turning right.
- watch out for a cyclist ahead waiting to turn left if you're driving straight through.
- check carefully for oncoming cyclists before making a left turn.
- check carefully for cyclists crossing the road when coming to a place where a bicycle trail meets a road.
- be aware that a cyclist riding along the through road could be approaching faster than you think.

think

Know the rules — cyclists follow the same rules and regulations as drivers.

warning!

A cyclist will expect you to follow the rules of the road.

- Yield to cyclists as you would to any other vehicle. If you have the right-of-way at an intersection, proceed if it is safe.
- Be aware that cyclists don't always stay on the right. To make a left turn, for instance, they need to move over to the left lane. If the lane is narrow, or if there is glass or a pothole on the right, a cyclist has the right to move out toward the middle for safety.
- Pay attention to bicycle lanes. For more information about these lanes, see **chapter 4, rules of the road.**

do

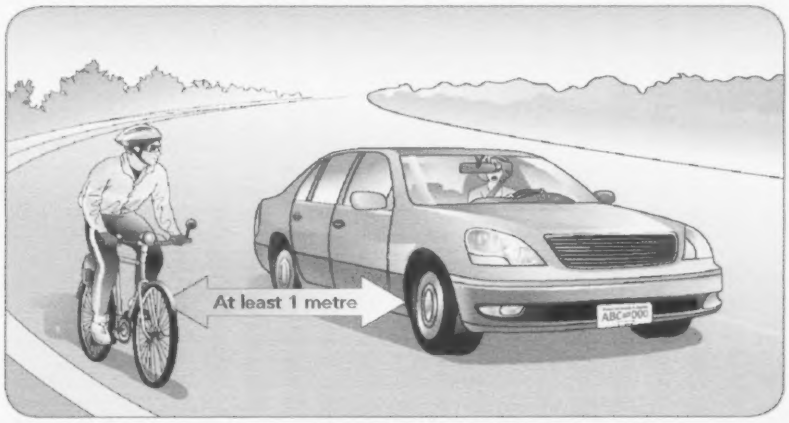
Space margins

Allow following distance — allow plenty of following distance. You need to be able to avoid hitting a cyclist who falls. Cyclists who wobble are probably inexperienced and are more likely to fall than experienced cyclists. Give them even more space than usual.

Allow side margins — a significant number of crashes involving cyclists result from side-swiping. Make sure there is enough space if you want to pass a cyclist. On a narrow road, wait for a clear, straight stretch that will allow you to pull out and give the cyclist room. Remember, you are allowed to cross a single solid yellow line when passing a cyclist, provided you can do it safely. On a multi-lane road, change lanes rather than risk crowding the cyclist.

driving tip

Even if you pull just slightly into another lane to pass, you are changing lanes. Remember to mirror check, signal and shoulder check.



Always check your side margin when passing a cyclist.

Communication

Recognize hand signals — understand the hand signals that cyclists use. A cyclist may signal a right turn by extending the right arm straight out in the direction of the turn. For more information about hand signals, see the Turn signals section in **chapter 5, see-think-do.**

Make eye contact — a cyclist often uses eye contact to communicate. Make eye contact if you can. She or he is probably trying to anticipate your next move.

Avoid honking your horn — don't honk your horn at a cyclist unless you need to give a warning. A loud honk could startle a cyclist and even cause a fall.

Strategies: Being a safe cyclist

If you are a cyclist, you're responsible for sharing the road in a way that keeps you and others safe.

Be predictable. Cyclists are more predictable if they follow the rules of the road.

Be visible. Because bicycles are narrow, you need to work at making yourself visible. Wear bright or reflective clothing, especially in the dark or in poor weather. Position yourself so drivers can see you. Avoid riding in blind spots.

Ride defensively. Think and look well ahead. Be assertive, but remember that a conflict between a cyclist and a motor vehicle usually results in injury to the cyclist.

Ride legally. In Whitehorse, you must wear an approved bicycle helmet. If you ride at night, your bicycle must be equipped with a front white headlight visible at 150 metres, and have a rear red light and a red rear reflector.

Motorcycle riders

Like cyclists, motorcycle riders are vulnerable road users. They don't have the protection of an external frame, airbags or bumpers, and are sometimes difficult to see.

More than half of all motorcycle crashes result in injury or death.

see

Watch for clues — sometimes a motorcycle's turn signals are hard to see. Watch the rider for clues. If the rider shoulder checks or the motorcycle leans, the rider is probably planning to change lanes or turn.

Look carefully for bicycles and motorcycles when you drive through an intersection. Without good observation skills, the driver of the blue car might miss seeing the motorcycle.

Scan at intersections — look carefully for motorcycles when you come to an intersection.

- When you are turning left, look out for oncoming motorcycles. Motorcycles can be hard to see, especially at night, at dusk or in heavy traffic. It is also difficult to judge how fast they are approaching.
- When you are driving through an intersection, watch for an oncoming motorcycle that may be turning left.

do

Space margins

Allow side margins — never try to share a lane with a motorcycle. A motorcycle needs the whole lane to travel safely.

Allow following distance — allow at least three seconds of following distance when you are behind a motorcycle because:

- motorcycles can stop very quickly.
- motorcyclists can skid and fall because of poor road conditions. You need to leave plenty of room to stop safely.

Allow space when passing — allow plenty of space when you pass a motorcycle. Your vehicle may throw dirt or water in the rider's face.

Communication

Make eye contact — establish eye contact whenever possible.

Read vehicle language — don't assume that a rider in the left part of the lane is planning to turn left. Motorcyclists often ride in the left part of the lane to make themselves more visible.

Passenger vehicles

When you drive, you will interact with the drivers of cars, vans and small trucks. Drivers of passenger vehicles can be just as unpredictable as other road users. They may not always look ahead. Their vehicles may not be well maintained; for example, their brakes and signal lights may not be working properly. And some drivers may be tired, impatient or impaired.

Use all of your **see-think-do** skills to observe and respond safely to other passenger vehicles.

Large vehicles

Large vehicles operate quite differently than cars. Give them lots of room.

do

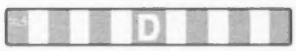
Space margins

Allow following distance — a big vehicle can prevent you from seeing hazards ahead. You'll have a wider range of vision if you increase your following distance.

If you are stopped facing uphill behind a large vehicle, remember that it may roll backwards when the driver releases the brake. Leave extra space in front of your vehicle.

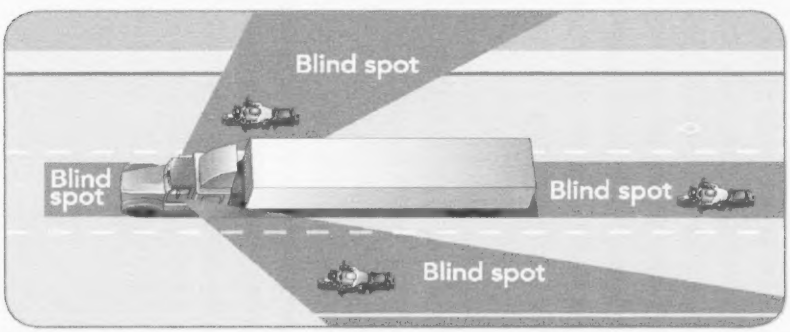
In rainy weather, large vehicles can spray dirt or water onto your windshield, reducing your vision. Their tires may also spray up rocks that could hit your vehicle. Staying well back will help prevent this.

You will see this sign on the back of some vehicles. It is used to indicate vehicles that will be moving slowly. Keep your distance and pass only when you are certain it is safe.



When you see this sign or a Wide Load, Long Load or Oversize Load sign on a truck or pilot car, it indicates that an oversize load is being transported.

Keep clear of blind spots — there are large blind spots both behind and beside large vehicles. Make sure you keep out of the blind spots, otherwise the driver will not see you. You should be able to see both mirrors of the truck or bus in front of you. Never try to sneak behind a truck if it is backing into a loading bay or out of a driveway as you will enter one of the truck driver's blind spots and risk being hit.



When travelling near a large vehicle, think about whether the driver can see you — avoid travelling in blind spots.

Allow space when passing — you need a lot of space when passing. Remember that trucks are long and some pull two trailers. Don't pass unless you are sure you have enough space.

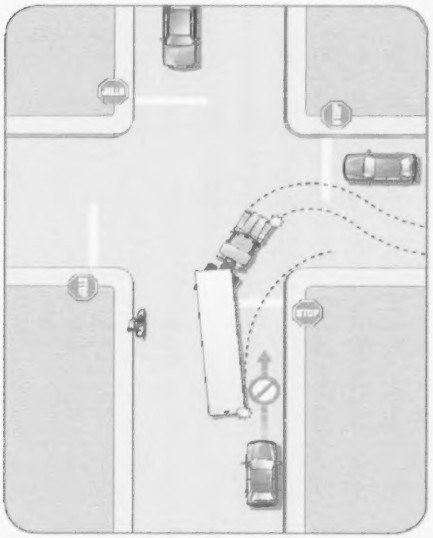
If you pass a large vehicle, or make a lane change in front of one, remember to leave extra room before you pull in. Big vehicles take longer to slow down. Make sure you can see the truck's headlights in your rear-view mirror before you re-enter the lane, and maintain your speed once you get there.

If you see a truck starting to slow down well before a red light, remember that the driver requires all of that space to stop in time. Never move into that space; you could be rear-ended.

Make room for turns — big vehicles need a lot of room to turn. When they turn right, keep your distance or you may be squeezed between the truck and the curb.

driving tip

Use extreme caution when passing large vehicles, especially if visibility is not ideal.



You may also have a space problem if you are on a road that a large vehicle is turning onto. The driver may need to cross the centre line or cut a corner in order to complete a turn. Again, keep your distance.

Avoid being on the right of a large vehicle if there's a chance it might turn right.

Avoid turbulence — big vehicles create turbulence that can push you away from the vehicle or pull you towards it. Turbulence can cause problems when you are passing a big truck, or when you meet one coming toward you. Allow lots of space on the side, and keep a firm grip on the steering wheel.

Communication

Read vehicle language — many large vehicles are equipped with engine retarders that slow the vehicle down without the use of brakes. Truck drivers also use their gears to slow down. This means the truck or bus ahead of you could slow down without the brake lights coming on. Look ahead and listen for a change in the truck's engine noise.

Watch for signs that a large vehicle is about to back up — a horn or beeper, four-way flashers or backup lights.

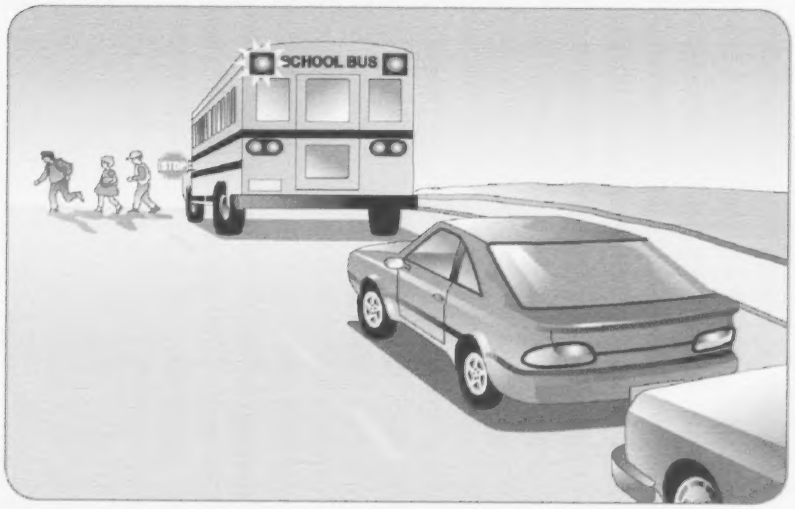
Signal well ahead — if you are ahead of a large vehicle, signal well before you slow down, turn or stop. Large vehicles need lots of time to slow down.

School buses

see

Watch for clues — a school bus that has stopped to let children on or off has flashing lights at the top and sometimes a swing-out stop sign. The school bus driver may turn on flashing amber

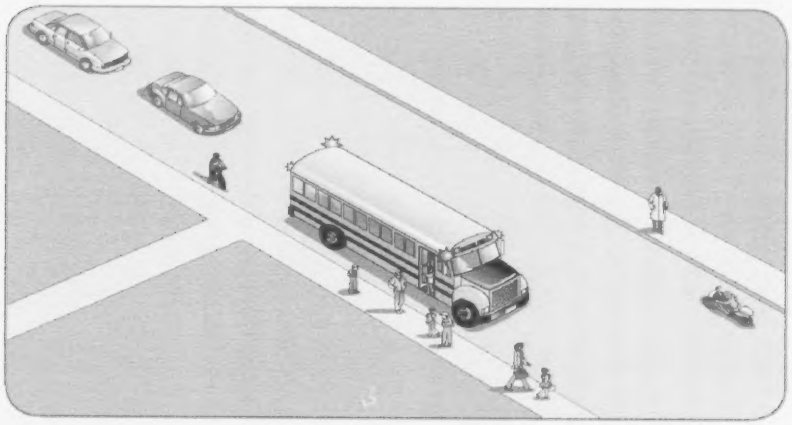
On a street or undivided highway, you must stop in either direction whenever you see flashing red lights on a school bus.



lights when preparing to stop.

think

Know the rules — when you see a school bus with alternating flashing red lights at the top, you must stop whether you are



After stopping for a school bus, don't start moving again until the bus moves on or the driver signals that it's safe by turning off the lights and pulling in the stop sign.

approaching it from the front or the rear. (You don't need to stop if you are on the other side of a divided highway.)

Public transit buses

see

Watch for buses that have stopped — they may block your view of pedestrians about to cross the street, or they may be about to pull into traffic.

think

Know the rules — when it is safe to do so, allow a public transit bus that is signalling and displaying a yield-to-bus sign to move out from the curb lane or a bus stop.

do

Space margins and speed control

Change lanes to let a bus pull out if there is space in the next lane, or slow down if you can't change lanes safely.

Emergency vehicles

Emergency vehicles include police cars, ambulances and fire trucks.

see

Listen for sirens and watch for flashing lights — look to see where the emergency vehicle is coming from. Once the vehicle has passed, watch and listen because there may be others.

think

Know the rules — emergency vehicles displaying flashing lights and sirens always have the right-of-way. All traffic moving in both directions must stop. (Exception: If you are on a divided highway and the emergency vehicle is approaching on the other side of the median, you may not need to stop. Make sure that it would be impossible for the emergency vehicle to move onto your side of the highway.)

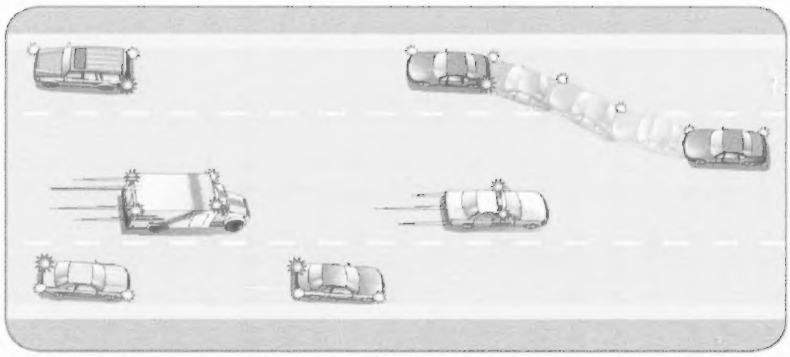
Clear a path — don't block the path of emergency vehicles. Usually the best thing to do is pull over to the right and stop (or to the left if you're driving in the left lane of a divided highway

driving tip

If you are stopped at an intersection and you are blocking the path of the emergency vehicle, you may have to turn the corner to get out of the way.

warning!

All vehicles on both sides of the road must pull over to leave a clear path whenever an emergency vehicle uses its siren and flashing lights.



or on a one-way street). Do not stop in an intersection. Think well ahead, and have a plan in mind to create a path for the emergency vehicle.

do

Space margins and speed control

Allow following distance — when you're following a fire truck, you must stay back at least 150 metres.

Communication

Signal — use your turn signal to let the emergency vehicle driver know you have seen the vehicle and are pulling over.

Emergency workers on roads

Slow down and leave plenty of room when passing stopped emergency vehicles displaying red and/or blue or amber flashing lights. These include police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, tow trucks, and vehicles used by vehicle inspectors, conservation officers, park rangers and special constables.

see

Watch for – flashing red, blue or amber lights or other signs that emergency workers are on the side of the road.

think

Know the rules – all traffic must slow right down when approaching stopped emergency vehicles displaying flashing lights. (Exception: This rule does not apply if you are on a divided highway and approaching the emergency workers from the opposite direction.)

If you are in the lane next to a stopped emergency vehicle — in either direction — you must also change lanes if traffic permits.

do

Space margins and speed control

Slow down and leave space when passing emergency workers on roads. Change lanes if it is safe to do so.

Construction zones

Road crews work throughout the year to maintain and improve our roads.

Despite construction zone signs and traffic control persons, crashes still occur in construction zones, mainly because some drivers don't pay attention.

see

Scan ahead — look for construction zones ahead and be prepared to obey traffic control devices within the zone.

Pay attention at night — road construction doesn't just occur in the daytime. With the high daytime traffic volumes, more and more road construction takes place at night. You need to pay extra attention and drive extra slowly through construction zones at night.

Look around — just because you don't immediately see traffic control persons or construction workers in a construction zone doesn't mean they are not there. Be alert for traffic control persons, construction workers and equipment.

think

Know the rules — you must obey the directions of traffic control persons and road construction signs from the start to the end of the construction zone.

Think ahead — construction zones often require lane closures, so you may need to change lanes. Merge to avoid a lane closure as soon as you can. This will help maintain traffic flow.

Plan ahead — expect delays, and plan for them by leaving early to reach your destination on time. Construction crews aren't there to personally inconvenience you — they are improving

warning!

Traffic fines are double in a construction zone.

driving tip

Check radio, television and websites for the latest traffic reports and updates to find out what is happening on the roads within your area, and along your intended route. Consider taking an alternate route. For Yukon's road report, phone 511 or visit www.511yukon.ca.

the roads for everyone.

do

Space margins and speed control

Slow down — the road surface may be uneven or unpaved, so you need to slow down. You must obey construction zone speed limits. Traffic fines are double in construction zones.

Stop when directed — stop when directed to do so by traffic control persons or other traffic control devices. In some construction zones, you may need to wait for a pilot car to escort you through the work zone.

Allow following distance — leave plenty of following distance between your vehicle and the vehicle immediately ahead. Avoid changing lanes in a construction zone.

Allow side margins — leave space between you, the construction crews and their equipment in the construction zones.

driving tip

Unnecessary idling wastes gas and causes emissions that degrade air quality and contribute to climate change. If you are directed to stop in a construction zone, turn off the engine. Idling for more than 10 seconds costs more than turning the engine off.

Trains

Every year people die or are seriously injured in collisions between vehicles and trains, so you need to be careful when approaching a railway crossing. Most trains require approximately two kilometres to stop — never try to beat one.

see

Watch for clues — lots of clues warn you of a railway crossing ahead.

- **Advance warning signs** — these signs alert you to an upcoming crossing, and tell you to look, listen and slow down because you may have to stop. They are usually posted in locations where you cannot see an upcoming railway crossing (for example, on hilly or curvy roads). A speed sign below the advance warning sign may advise that the safe road speed is less than the posted speed.
- **Pavement markings** — at the approach to some railway crossings, you may see a painted "X" on the pavement. Some crossings also have flashing lights, a bell and gates. If the light and bell are activated or the gate is down, it means a train is approaching.
- **Reflective strips** — at night, reflective strips along the sides of train cars may be your first warning that a train is crossing the road in front of you.

You may not be able to see a train coming if visibility is poor, but you may hear its whistle. Remember that trains are not

crash fact

Be especially careful at night. Half of all nighttime collisions between trains and cars involve vehicles hitting the side of a train because the driver didn't see it.

required to sound a whistle at every crossing.

Observe carefully — be aware that your eyes may mislead you. Trains often seem to be moving much slower than they really are. Passenger trains travel at up to 160 km/h in Canada.

Check for other road users — watch out for other road users at railway crossings. Motorcycle riders and cyclists may have to swerve to cross the tracks safely. They could slip and fall on wet tracks, so be sure to cover your brake and leave extra room.

Watch for a second train — be aware that there is often more than one track, so watch out for a second train. One of the main causes of car and train crashes is that the driver doesn't wait for the second train that is hidden behind the first one.

warning!

Expect a train on a track at any time. Trains don't always follow regular schedules.

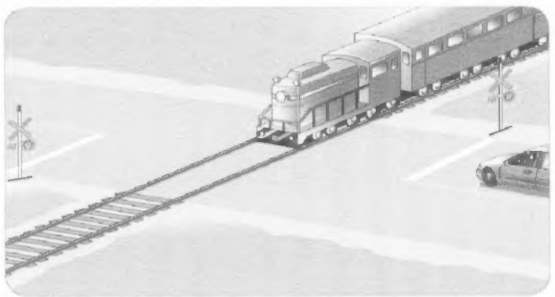
driving tip

When there is a red traffic light at an intersection on the other side of a railway crossing, do not stop on the tracks. Stop before the railway crossing unless there is room on the other side.

think

Know the rules — trains always have right of way. They don't slow down for crossings. If there is a gate down, you must stop and wait for it to rise before you cross the tracks. If flashing red lights are displayed at the crossing, you must stop. Move across the tracks only when it's safe. If a flag person directs you to stop, you must obey their directions. If you hear or see a train approaching the crossing, stop and don't proceed until it is safe.

Think ahead — if your vehicle is stuck on the track, you will have to think and act quickly. Get all passengers out of the vehicle. Quickly move at least 30 metres away from the track to avoid flying debris. Then phone for help.



Stop no closer than five metres and no further than 15 metres from the nearest rail.

- Transport Canada — look for the phone number and location on the back of the railway crossing sign
- 911 or the local police.

do

Speed control

Travel at a safe speed — you should always be able to stop within the distance lit by your headlights if you're driving at night.

Gear down — if you are driving a vehicle with a standard transmission, change to a lower gear before you begin to cross.

Never change gears on the crossing because you could stall the vehicle.

Space margins

Allow following distance — never get trapped on a crossing. When traffic is heavy, wait until you can clear the crossing before moving ahead.

Animals

Hitting a large animal, such as a moose, elk, bison, or horse, can cause crashes that are fatal to both the animal and the people in the vehicle. Emergency braking and swerving to avoid hitting even small animals can also cause crashes.

see

Scan ahead — and always be on the look-out for animals on the road or in the ditches.

think

Know the rules — very few roads are fenced on either side to prevent wild animals, and even domestic animals, from crossing the road in front of you. In Yukon, bison and elk herds are allowed to range freely. Horses may be ridden on most public roads and horse carriage operators have the same rights (and responsibilities) as motor vehicle operators.

Know the hazards — animals are unpredictable. Startled by sudden movement or noise, they may run across the road right in front of you. Horse riders or herders of domestic animals may not be able to control their animals.

Animals are also very hard to see at night. Even when no large animals are visible on the road ahead of you, the driver in front of you may brake suddenly, or steer erratically, to avoid running over a small animal, or even hitting a bird.

do

Space margins

Slow down — especially at night. Never out-drive your headlights. Allow plenty of following distance in case the driver ahead of you brakes or swerves for an animal you can't see.

Leave extra space — when passing animals, and when passing slow or stopped vehicles that may obstruct your view of animal hazard on the road.

Pass carefully — avoid sounding your horn, and pass carefully and slowly.

Prepare to stop — if an animal is in position to cross the road or a rider is having trouble controlling a horse, pull over to the shoulder of the road and stop. It's better to wait until the animal moves, or the horse is back under the rider's control, than to risk passing them.

driving tip

What strategies will you use to avoid crashes caused by trying to avoid hitting animals on the road?

7 personal strategies

in this chapter

- Fitness to drive
  - seeing and hearing
  - assessing your health
- Dangerous emotions
- Impairment
  - alcohol
  - drugs
  - fatigue
  - distraction
- Taking risks
- Peer pressure
- Unsafe passengers
- Unsafe drivers
- Aggression on the road
- Organ Donor Registry

In the previous chapter, you learned how to share the road safely with other road users. This chapter gives strategies you can use to handle situations that can have a negative influence on you and your driving.

Fitness to drive

You in the driver's seat

You wake up with a cold and feel awful, but you have to go to work. You take some cold medication before getting into your car. As you're driving, you notice that you feel light-headed and tired. Turning right at the first intersection, you narrowly miss a cyclist.

What should you do?

To be in control while driving, you need to be able to rely on the information your eyes and ears pick up. You need to be healthy, rested and focused to be a safe driver.

Seeing and hearing

Experts estimate that about 80 per cent of all driving information comes to drivers through their eyes. You need to take a vision screening test before you can be licensed to drive.

Your sense of hearing also helps you gather information about the driving scene. Listen for important warning signals such as horns, sirens, train whistles and unusual noises in your engine.

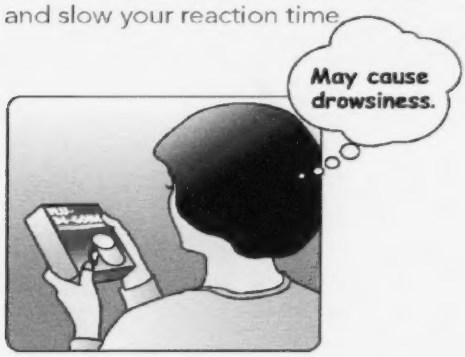
Strategies: Seeing and hearing effectively

To see and hear effectively while driving:

- Use glasses or contact lenses if you need them.
- Scan systematically as you drive.
- Repair or replace a noisy engine muffler.
- Don't play your stereo too loudly.
- Don't use a cellphone or headphones while driving.

Assessing your health

Even a mild illness like a cold or the flu can affect your alertness. Over-the-counter medicines can make you drowsy and slow your reaction time.



Read labels carefully before taking medication if you plan to drive.

If you have a health condition that you think might impair your ability to drive, be sure to check with your doctor or pharmacist before getting behind the wheel.

Strategies: What to do if you're not feeling well

- Take the bus or get a friend to drive you.
- Read the label carefully if you are taking any medications. Don't drive if the label says the drug may cause drowsiness or dizziness.

Dangerous emotions

We all have changing emotional states. Emotions are powerful forces that can interrupt the concentration you need for driving. When you are feeling very angry, anxious, sad or upset, you miss important information. Your thinking becomes unclear. Your safety and the safety of others is in danger.

Sometimes you may become angry or impatient because of the driving environment. Crowded traffic conditions and high-speed freeway driving often cause stress. Being slowed down by other traffic when you're in a hurry produces tension. Drivers who are angry or stressed are less tolerant of the mistakes that other road users make.

Whatever the cause of the emotion, it is important to look at your emotional fitness to drive. Sometimes it's best to stay out of the driver's seat.

Strategies: Controlling emotions

Here are some things you can do to help you stay calm and in control while driving:

- Keep learning. Review your stressful driving situations and figure out what you can do next time to be calmer and safer.
- Plan ahead. Choose a route that avoids heavy traffic so you can concentrate better.
- Allow yourself plenty of time. Being in a hurry can cause you to become angry or frustrated. Realize that if you leave late, you'll arrive late.
- Think of your own safety and the safety of others. This can help you calm yourself.
- Be patient and extra courteous. Remember that all drivers make mistakes. Take a couple of moments to calm yourself down and leave your problems behind before you start to drive. If you can't focus, don't get behind the wheel.
- Be honest with yourself. Admitting to yourself exactly how you feel can often help to calm you down.
- Open the windows to let in some fresh air and take a few deep breaths.
- Listen to the radio or a relaxing CD.
- Loosen your grip on the steering wheel. This will help to ease your arm and neck muscles and reduce the chance of you getting a headache.

Impairment

crash fact

In an average year in Canada, over 1,200 people are killed and 75,000 are injured in police-reported collisions where alcohol was involved. Nearly 30 per cent of all traffic deaths involve impaired driving.

Statistics Canada, 2007

You in the driver's seat

You are going home from a party with your friend. It's pretty late and you're anxious to get to bed. It's been a long day. Your friend runs a yellow light, just catching the beginning of a red. You notice he is staring straight ahead, his eyes not moving. The car starts to weave and then lurches to one side as he brakes hard. "Hey, what are you doing?" you ask. "It's okay, I thought I was at the intersection...a little early, huh?" he laughs.

What should you do?

If you plan to drink, decide ahead of time how you will get home safely.

Facts about alcohol

The table below shows some ways that alcohol can interfere with seeing, thinking and doing. It's risky behaviour to mix drinking with driving.

Chapter 10, Yukon's driver's licence, talks about some of the fines and charges for impaired driving.

Ability	Driver's symptoms	Effects on the driver
See	• tendency to stare	• cannot take in information quickly enough
	• eyes lose reflex abilities	• can be blinded by glare
	• reduced coordination of images	• sees double
	• reduced depth perception	• can't judge distance or speed of other vehicles
	• reduced peripheral vision	• may not see hazards approaching from the side
Think	• reasoning becomes unclear • reduced concentration • emotional state becomes unstable	• thinks mental ability is sharp but cannot make sound driving decisions
Do	• reduced muscle control	• cannot coordinate steering and braking
	• increased impulsiveness	• takes greater risks by speeding or taking chances
	• reduced coordination	• oversteers; brakes late or not at all
	• slowed reaction time	• cannot make turns accurately • cannot react to emergencies quickly

What alcohol does to drivers		
Alcohol myth		Alcohol fact
Alcohol won't affect me as much if I drink coffee, have something to eat, or take a cold shower.	 	Only time can sober you up or lower your Blood Alcohol Content (BAC). Contrary to popular belief, food, coffee, cold showers or exercise will not speed up the elimination of alcohol from your system. Transport Canada states that if you have a BAC of .08 it takes about six hours for your body to completely process that alcohol and return to a BAC of zero.
Beer doesn't affect driving as much as other alcoholic drinks do.		A glass of beer contains the same amount of alcohol as a glass of wine or an average cocktail. In some cases, even small amounts of alcohol can cause a driver to be impaired.

think about

Is it worth it to drink and drive?

- You or your passengers could be injured or killed in a crash.
- You may spend time in jail.
- You could lose your licence.
- You may have to pay stiff fines.
- Your insurance may not pay for any injuries or damage you cause.
- You could spend the rest of your life dealing with the grief of injuring or killing an innocent person.

Strategies: Protecting yourself from impaired drivers

To get home safely:

- Learn the effects of drugs and alcohol. Accurate information allows you to make informed decisions.
- Refuse to ride with drivers who may be impaired. Ask to be let out of the car if necessary.
- Take a stand. Don't let someone who may be impaired drive.
- Choose a designated driver before going out.
- Keep money aside for a bus or taxi.
- Call a friend.

In general, be conscious that in certain areas (such as near bars) and at certain times of the day (especially at night), the driver of a car sharing the road with you could be drunk!

driving tip

If you are feeling impaired after taking a drug or medication, don't drive. Let someone else do the driving until the effect has worn off.

driving tip

Always read the label of any medication you are taking to see if it can affect driving. If you are taking more than one medication, ask your pharmacist or doctor about their combined effects on driving.

Facts about drugs

Drugs and driving

Drugs and medications can impair driving. If you are taking medications or drugs, you need to know how they can affect your ability to drive safely. Drugs affect people differently. If there is any doubt about safety, leave the driving to someone else.

Medications

Over-the-counter medicines for allergies, coughs, colds and nausea can cause drowsiness and inattention. Prescriptions, including sedatives, tranquilizers, painkillers and some antidepressants, can affect alertness, concentration and reaction time.

These effects can continue for many hours after the medicine is taken.

If your doctor or pharmacist cautions you that a medication is likely to interfere with driving safety, pay attention. If you are feeling impaired after taking a medication, don't drive — let someone else do the driving until the effect has worn off.

Illegal drugs

Recreational or street drugs, such as marijuana, speed, heroin and cocaine, have a wide variety of effects. Some effects are listed under *Medications* on the previous page, and others include:

- hallucinations
- altered perception
- feelings of invincibility
- lack of judgment.

They may cause a driver to:

- have difficulty following the movement of vehicles or pedestrians accurately
- misunderstand visual cues from the driving environment
- delay responses, especially in emergency situations.

crash fact

A driver who combines alcohol and drugs is nine times more likely to have a crash than a sober driver.

Australian study, O. Drummer, 1994

Drugs and alcohol

Many drugs will greatly increase impairment when combined with even small amounts of alcohol.

Fatigued Driving

Being tired is one of the leading causes of crashes. Fatigue affects all stages of the see-think-do strategy. It can cause you to scan inaccurately, slow your thinking and lengthen your reaction time.

driving tip

You can become unaware of your surroundings when you drive for a long time on a highway or freeway that doesn't change much. This is called highway hypnosis. Some areas have installed rumble strips or rough patches to warn drivers if they start to drift into another lane. You can help avoid highway hypnosis by turning off the cruise control, scanning systematically and using strategies to stay awake.

Strategies: Staying awake

To keep alert behind the wheel, especially for long journeys:

- Start out well rested.
- Take breaks. Walk around and get some exercise.
- Stop and eat, but avoid heavy meals because they may make you feel sleepy.
- Keep the heat level moderate.
- Keep a window open for fresh air.
- Sing or talk to keep yourself paying attention.
- Pull over to a rest stop and take a nap (be sure to lock your doors).
- Don't drive too far at one time. If you are making a long trip, be especially careful on the second day. This is when tiredness is most likely to affect you.

Distracted Driving

When you are driving, your mind and senses should be focused only on driving. Distractions can affect your hazard perception and your reaction time.

Strategies: Keeping focused

To help you concentrate on driving:

- Keep your eyes moving. Don't get distracted by one thing in the driving scene.
- Keep predicting what might happen, and plan your moves.
- Pull over and stop your car if you need to use your cellphone or other electronic device.
- Pull over and look after whatever is distracting you — check the map and figure out the best route, look for the music you want to play, send a text message, etc.
- Let your passengers know that you need to give most of your attention to driving, so you will have to keep conversation to a minimum.
- Don't hang distracting items on the rear-view mirror or keep them on the dash.

Cellphones and other hand-held devices

Transport Canada research shows that using electronic devices while driving is distracting and increases driving risks. For this reason, most Canadian jurisdictions, including Yukon, have banned the use of electronic hand-held devices while driving.

Yukon does permit experienced drivers to use hands-free electronic devices while driving. Examples of allowable electronic devices while driving are hands-free communication devices, hands-free GPS devices and hands-free music devices without headphones.

Yukon residents learning to drive in the Graduated Driver's Licence program (see Chapter 9) are not permitted to use electronic devices while driving, even if they have hands-free capabilities.

In all cases, a driver who is safely and lawfully parked may use electronic devices.

Driving requires your full attention and concentration. You have a responsibility to your passengers, other road users and yourself, to operate your vehicle in a safe manner. Cellphone use while driving reduces awareness of what is happening around you and slows reaction times. The distraction results

fast fact

Examples of hand-held electronic devices that cannot be used while driving include laptop computers, iPods, iPads, electronic video devices, hand-held music devices with or without headphones, hand-held GPS devices and electronic gaming devices.

warning!

GDL drivers caught using such electronic devices will be required to re-start the GDL program.

from your involvement in the conversation, not only from physically handling or looking at the device.

Avoid crashes as a result of cellphone use

- Turn off your cellphone before you start driving. Let voice mail do its job.
- If you must use the cellphone, give this task to a passenger.
- If you must make a call, look for a safe place to pull over and park. Then make the call.

You in the driver's seat

You're on your way to work or school. The traffic is heavy, so your progress is slow. As you approach a green light, the car in front slows down. The driver seems to be deciding whether to make a turn. You mumble under your breath in frustration. Finally, the car moves, but the light turns yellow, so you now have to stop and wait. You feel a surge of anger. A driver like that shouldn't be on the road slowing up traffic. You just know you are going to be late.

Taking risks

You in the driver's seat

You are alone and driving on a straight stretch of highway. You are tempted to floor it.

What choice will you make?

think about

What kind of driving style you plan to have. Do you want to stay within your skill level? Do you think it is better to be cautious rather than take too many chances? Driving attitude or style is something you choose.

New drivers differ in how they manage risk. You probably know drivers who are unsure of what actions to take and are nervous around other road users. These people lack confidence in their skills. Other drivers are overconfident and think they are much better drivers than they really are. Both overconfident drivers and those who lack confidence need to learn more and take more time to practise their skills.

A few people adopt a dangerous driving style, seeking excitement through speeding and taking risks. These people are thrill-seekers who enjoy speeding, tailgating or passing unsafely.

How often do you take risks?

How often do you:	Always	Sometimes	Never
Shoulder check?			
Drive within the speed limit?			
Signal?			
Avoid drinking and driving?			
Leave good space margins?			

Strategies: Identifying your driving attitude or style

To identify your driving attitude or style:

- Ask someone you trust to give you some feedback on your driving skills, driving attitude and driving style.
- Analyze your attitude and style. If you have a close call, ask yourself why it happened, and think about how you can drive more safely so it doesn't happen again.
- Be critical when you watch a car ad or a car chase scene in a movie. Ask yourself: *What message am I getting? Do I agree with this message? Will this message affect my driving attitude or style?*
- Do you find yourself always blaming others for bad driving? If so, then ask yourself: *Is it really their fault or could it be me?*

Peer pressure

crash fact

Over 75 per cent of all drivers travelling at an unsafe speed resulting in a casualty collision were male. Over 37 per cent of people killed in collisions were victims of collisions caused by unsafe speed.

B.C. Traffic Collision Statistics, Police-attended injury and fatal collisions 2007

You in the driver's seat

"Aw come on, join the party, have a drink," your friend says.

You promised to be the driver after the party. You were going to stick to soft drinks. But this is a new friend and you really like him.

What choice would you make?

It's hard to resist peer pressure. We want to belong, so we're sensitive to what others think of us. There are two kinds of peer pressure: positive and negative. Friends who persuade

you to do the safe thing because they care about you are giving positive peer pressure. On the other hand, friends or acquaintances who encourage you to do something dangerous are putting negative pressure on you.

Learning how to handle peer pressure takes a lot of practice. You want to keep your friends, but you don't want to get talked into doing things that put yourself and others in danger.

Strategies: Handling negative peer pressure

Try using these four steps to help you resist negative peer pressure.

1. **Identify the problem.** You may impress your new friend if you drink, but you aren't keeping your promise to stay sober and be the designated driver.
2. **Think about the consequences.** If you choose to have a drink so you don't upset your friend, you increase the risk of being involved in a crash when you get behind the wheel. You could hurt or even kill yourself or someone else.
3. **Identify alternatives.** Suggest to your friend that you'll have a drink with him another time when you don't have to drive.
4. **Follow through.** Stay sober, and when you are ready to leave, offer your friends a ride.

Unsafe passengers

think about

How you would handle unsafe passengers.

You in the driver's seat

You are driving home at night with a load of passengers. They are all having a good time, telling jokes and fooling around. The light rain is making it hard to see. There is a lot of reflection on the road. You need to concentrate, but you are finding it hard to think with all the noise around you.

What should you do?

When you drive, you are responsible for the safety of your passengers. Sometimes you will find that passengers can be distracting. Children often become bored with long drives and demand attention from you. Passengers may start talking loudly, teasing or wrestling in the car. This is a time when you will have to show leadership and maintain control.

Strategies: Being a good passenger

As a passenger, you can help drivers:

- Avoid heated or emotional conversations, as these can distract the driver.
- Discourage reckless driving.
- Be prepared to take a stand for safety.

Strategies: Keeping passengers safe

Help keep people in your vehicle safe.

- Refuse to move unless everyone is wearing a seatbelt.
- Tell children the rules before you start the trip.
- Give children activities if it's a long drive.
- Tell passengers that you will not be able to talk very much because you need to concentrate on driving.
- Use humour with your friends. For example, tell them you're not smart enough to drive and joke around at the same time.

driving tip

Make sure animals you are transporting are secured in cages. A wandering, frightened animal is a dangerous distraction.

Unsafe drivers

You in the driver's seat

Your friend offers to drive you and your buddies to the next town. It's only 20 km away so you agree. He starts down the highway and is soon way over the speed limit. He pulls out to pass a car and barely has space to get back into the lane. You quickly realize that he is a very unsafe driver.

What should you do?

Everyone's had the experience of being stuck in a car with someone whose driving scares them. Having a licence gives you more power to deal with this situation because you know the rules and regulations and you know what safe driving means. But it isn't easy to persuade unsafe drivers to change their driving style.

Strategies: Stopping unsafe driving situations

Here are some ideas that could help you handle unsafe drivers.

- Try using humour. It works sometimes.
- Use "I" statements to get across how you feel. For example, you might say: *I'm feeling pretty nervous right now. Could you please slow down for me?*
- Offer to take the wheel. Tell your friend that you'd really like a turn driving.
- If there are other passengers, try to get their help. Ask: *Are you guys really in this much of a rush to get there?* Chances are they are probably feeling the same way.
- Be firm. Say something like: *Hey! Slow down before you get us killed.*
- If all else fails, ask to be let out of the car.

Aggression on the road

You in the driver's seat

It's late at night and you are driving in an unfamiliar neighbourhood. A vehicle comes speeding up behind you. The driver starts flicking the headlights back and forth from high to low beam.

What should you do?

It's often difficult to know what to do when you're faced with drivers who are aggressive. Their lack of courtesy and bad driving habits can lead to crashes. Extreme aggression, or road rage, is not common, but mild aggression can grow if you are not careful. How should you respond?

think about

What you would do to be a safe and courteous driver if you saw a stranger hitchhiking or parked beside the road with the vehicle hood up.

Be smart about your choices and safety.

Strategies: Handling other drivers' aggression

When other drivers start acting aggressively behind the wheel:

- Respond with good driving manners. Give the other driver plenty of room and the right-of-way.
- Don't return aggression. Avoid eye contact, keep away from erratic drivers and don't gesture back.

If you're in a situation where you feel threatened:

- Get help. Drive to a police station or to a location where there are plenty of people (for example, a shopping mall).
- Call the police if you have a cellphone. (If you're travelling with someone else, get this person to make the call so you can focus on driving.)
- Don't go home.
- Keep the doors locked and the windows closed.
- Sound the horn or attract attention to yourself if someone tries to get into your car.

Preventing aggression

How can you make sure you don't increase the anger or frustration of other drivers? If you use your smart driving skills, allow plenty of space and give others the right-of-way, you can help prevent situations that cause aggression.

Strategies: Preventing aggression

Help prevent other drivers from becoming frustrated or angry:

- Know the rules of the road and follow them.
- Keep a generous following distance.
- Give the right-of-way.
- Move over for merging traffic.
- Signal your intentions.
- Pull over to let other drivers go by if there is a line of vehicles behind you.
- Keep your headlights on low beam unless you're in an unlit area.
- Keep your car stereo turned down.
- Don't block passing lanes.
- Don't take more than one parking spot.
- Don't use your horn unless it's really necessary.
- Don't park in spaces reserved for people with disabilities if you're not entitled to use the space.
- Don't yell at other road users.

think about

What messages your actions give to other drivers. Sharing the road means considering other drivers.

Yukon Organ Donation Program

Give someone a second chance at life

Every year, hundreds of men, women and children wait anxiously for a phone call that will save their lives. They need a new kidney, liver or heart. They are the ones who hope to see again, or for the first time, through a cornea transplant.

When that call does come, they are the ones who get a second chance to live life to the fullest, thanks to the kindness of people who gave the gift of life through donation of organs and tissue. But many more are waiting and many lives are lost because suitable donors are not found in time.

People will spend months or even years waiting for that second change because the need for organs and tissue in Canada continues to outweigh the availability.

You can improve and save lives by choosing to be an organ and tissue donor. Your family may find comfort in knowing that someone else has hope for a better life.

How to register

If you want to be a donor, the most important thing you can do is to make your wishes known to your family and next-of-kin. Doctors will support the decision of the family at the time of death. That is why it is so important to talk to your family about your wishes.

For more information on how to become an organ donor, contact the Yukon Organ Donor Program at 867-667-5209 or toll free at 1-800-661-0408, local 5209. Once you are registered, your preferences will be stated on your Yukon health card. When you apply for your Yukon driver's licence, you can show this health card and ask to have the heart-shaped organ donor symbol shown on your Yukon driver's licence.

8 emergency strategies

in this chapter

- Preparing for emergencies
- Emergency driving strategies
- Environmental hazards
- Night hazards
- Vehicle breakdowns
- Animals on the road
- Collision avoidance
- At the scene of a crash

Chapter 7 gave useful strategies to help you handle personal situations that can influence your driving in a negative way. This chapter describes two strategies for handling driving emergencies and many practical tips for helping you prevent emergencies from developing.

Preparing for emergencies

No one really expects to be involved in an emergency, but you can be sure that at some time you'll face one while you're driving. The best way to handle emergencies is to be prepared. One way you can prepare is by practising what you would do. Try these steps.

1. As you drive, look ahead and scan the scene for potential hazards (a child running out in front of you, a cyclist swerving into your lane, a car stopping in front of you suddenly, etc.)
2. Ask yourself: *What would I do?* (brake, swerve, pull over, etc.)

The best preparation is to always be alert and drive using the **see-think-do** strategy. If you're alert and make good decisions based on your observations, you will usually be able to take a driving action before an emergency develops.

Remember to prepare your vehicle for emergencies. Carry the right emergency equipment to help you deal with situations described in this chapter.

driving tip

Ask an experienced driver what kind of emergency equipment you should carry in your vehicle. What equipment do you need in different situations or seasons?

Emergency driving strategies

Two strategies to handle dangerous situations are emergency braking and skid control. These strategies are difficult to master. You should only practise them in a safe location under the supervision of an expert driver.

Emergency braking

warning!

Even skilled drivers are not able to safely handle every emergency. The strategies in this chapter can't guarantee your safety. The best preparation for an emergency is to avoid it.

You in the driver's seat

You're driving along your street, almost home. Out of the corner of your right eye you see a ball roll out onto the street with a blurry image behind it — maybe the neighbour's child. There's hardly any time to stop.

What should you do?

Even when you scan carefully, unexpected hazards can occur. When that happens, you may need to use emergency braking.

Standard braking systems

The key to emergency braking with standard braking systems is to stop the vehicle as quickly as possible without locking the brakes. If you lock the brakes, the wheels stop turning. You will lose control of the steering and the car may skid.

In most cases, you will not want to lock the brakes when stopping quickly. However, there may be occasions when you choose to lock the brakes because stopping is more important than steering.

Strategies: Emergency braking technique

To stop suddenly in an emergency:

1. press down hard on the brake pedal, but not hard enough to lock the wheels.
2. quickly release the brake and press hard again to regain control if you start to skid.
3. look and steer in the direction you want to go.

driving tip

Learn to use ABS correctly by practising in a safe location. Accelerate to 30 km/h, brake hard and steer around an imaginary object. Do not pump the brakes because this turns the system off. Don't be alarmed by brake noise or shudder; this is normal. Check your owner's manual so you know the correct braking technique.

Anti-lock braking systems (ABS)

ABS allows drivers to brake and steer at the same time. You can't do this with ordinary brakes. In an emergency situation, drivers using ABS should apply continuous, firm, hard pressure to the brake pedal until the vehicle stops. The computerized sensors automatically release the brakes from the wheels to prevent locking.

Contrary to what some people believe, ABS does not allow you to drive faster and they don't always allow you to stop sooner. On some surfaces, like gravel, the braking distance may be longer. But ABS can help prevent wheels from locking up on wet and slippery surfaces.

Skid control

think about

Think about the road conditions before you start to drive. Will the weather conditions make the road slippery? You should be able to avoid skidding by making safe choices in the first place. The most likely cause of skidding is poor driving skills.

You in the driver's seat

It's a cold morning and you're in a hurry to make it to work on time. You suddenly feel the vehicle isn't responding when you turn the steering wheel. You press the brake. The back of the car swings to the right. You've hit ice!

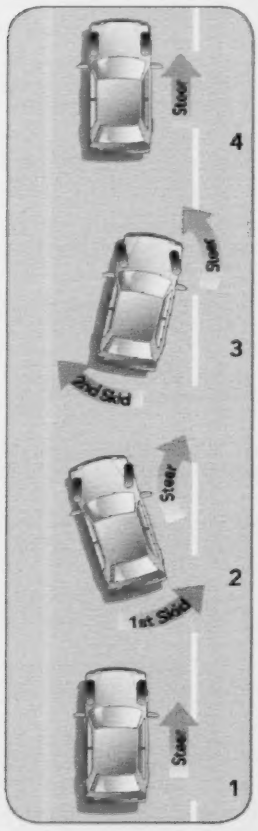
What should you do?

Skids can happen any time the tires lose grip on the road. This can be caused by slippery surfaces, as in the scene above, or by changing speed or direction too suddenly. Rain and ice contribute to skidding, but poor driving skills are the main cause of skidding. The way to avoid skids is to use your **see-think-do** skills. In slippery conditions, slow down.

Skids happen when drivers:

- slam on the brakes
- slam on the brakes and steer at the same time
- go around a corner too fast
- accelerate suddenly

Steps to handle a skid



The illustration shows what happens to your car when it skids and how you can regain control. The numbers in the illustration correspond to the following steps.

1. You're driving straight, but you fail to notice the patch of black ice ahead.
2. As you drive over the black ice, the rear of your vehicle skids to the right. Ease off the accelerator. Look and steer smoothly in the direction you want to go. (In this case, steer to the right.) Don't brake; this will make the situation worse.
3. Now the rear of your vehicle skids to the left. (This is likely caused by overcorrecting in Step 2.) Stay off the accelerator. Steer smoothly in the direction you want to go. (In this case, steer to the left.) You may need to repeat Steps 2 and 3 until you regain control.
4. Once you've regained control, continue driving with caution.

driving tip

The best option in extreme weather conditions is to stay home or take the bus.

Environmental hazards

In Yukon, ice fog, rain and snow can create difficult driving conditions. They can make road surfaces unpredictable. Slippery road surfaces are dangerous for drivers and their passengers, and may lead to crashes involving several vehicles.

Loss of visibility

You in the driver's seat

You're driving along a rural road when suddenly you're in a low area that is covered in fog. You strain to see ahead, but it is hard to see anything.

What should you do?

warning!

Your ability to effectively **see-think-do** is reduced in bad weather conditions

Weather conditions like fog, rain or snow can also be blinding. If you can't see clearly ahead or behind, your information about the road scene is dangerously reduced. You can't make good driving decisions in these conditions.

driving tip

Fog lights can be used instead of headlights in very foggy conditions. Make sure you know how to use your vehicle's heater and defroster controls. Some heater defrosters have a position to allow for recirculating the air in the vehicle's interior. Don't use this position in cold weather as it can cause windows to fog up.

think about

Your equipment list. A window scraper with a snow brush is a must.

warning!

It is against the law to drive unless your windows are clear of snow, ice or fog.

Strategies: Driving in low visibility conditions

Difficult weather conditions can be hazardous for drivers because visibility is often reduced. In these conditions:

- Slow down.
- Maintain extra space margins.
- Search and scan more carefully.
- Use low beam headlights in rain, snow and fog.
- Do not pass in extreme weather conditions because you can't see far enough ahead.
- Pull over and stop if necessary until the visibility improves. Choose a place that is safe from other traffic and does not block roadways.
- Use your defroster to keep your windows clear. If necessary, leave a window partly open for ventilation.
- Clear the vehicle of snow and ice before starting off. Make sure you can see clearly.
- Keep your wipers and washers in good working order.

Glare and shadows

Changing light conditions can reduce your ability to see. Glare can blind you in the day or at night when meeting vehicles with bright headlights. Dark shadows can hide hazards.

Strategies: Overcoming glare and shadows

To handle glare and shadows while driving:

- Slow down before entering tunnels to let your eyes adjust to the lower light levels.
- Remove your sunglasses and turn on your headlights while driving through tunnels.
- Use sunglasses and your sun visor during the daytime.
- Keep your windows clean.
- Adjust your rear-view mirror to the night-driving position.
- Keep a good following distance at night to reduce the glare your headlights create.

Loss of traction

You in the driver's seat

It snowed during the night. You're just starting out to pick up some groceries. You've driven in snow before, so you don't think this should be a problem. As you move slowly down the driveway, you apply the brake lightly to test your braking distance. Your car slides slightly; this is more dangerous than you thought at first. There was icy, hard-packed snow below the new snow.

What should you do?

Rain, snow and ice can affect your traction. Loose gravel, wet leaves, mud or sand can also make roads slippery and dangerous. Slow down and use caution when driving on any low-traction surface, and avoid driving altogether in extremely bad weather conditions.

driving tip

Make sure your vehicle tires are in good condition, properly inflated and suitable for the driving conditions.

Rain

Rain can cause two dangerous driving conditions:

- loss of traction
- hydroplaning.

Rain makes the road surface slippery, especially during the beginning of a rainfall. The rain mixes with the oil on the road to create a slippery, oily film. This film washes away with continued rain, but if the rain is light or if it has not rained for a long time, the road will remain slippery longer.

Strategies: Driving on wet roads

Make sure you have good control when roads are wet:

- Slow down and leave more following distance.
- Allow at least twice the normal braking distance.
- Brake gently so the wheels don't lock.

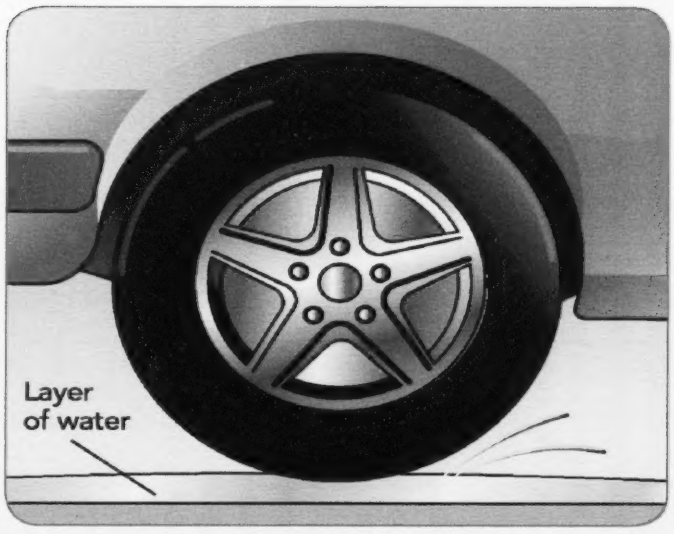
warning!

Never use cruise control in wet or slippery conditions. Your owner's manual will tell you to use it only in ideal driving conditions.

Hydroplaning happens when the tires lose contact with the road surface and float on a film of water. The driver instantly loses control of steering and braking. It can happen in rain or standing water. The higher your speed, the greater your chances of hydroplaning. You can tell if your vehicle is hydroplaning because the steering will suddenly become very light.

driving tip

Carry a good quality tire pressure guage, know the correct tire pressure for your vehicle, and adjust the tire pressure as soon as it is needed.



Vehicles with low tire pressure or worn tread are more likely to hydroplane.

Strategies: Preventing/handling hydroplaning

To prevent hydroplaning:

- Check your tires for proper tread and inflation.
- Scan ahead for large puddles.
- Reduce your speed, especially during heavy rain.

If hydroplaning happens:

- Slow down and drive straight. Never brake.

warning!

Moving water that is deeper than half a metre can carry a car away.

Deep water

Going through deep water can stall your vehicle and can even damage the engine or transmission. Consider turning back and going another way if you are faced with water across the roadway. If you can't avoid the section of roadway, drive through very slowly. After leaving the water, lightly apply the brakes for a short distance to dry them.

Ice and snow

Ice and snow can cause you to lose traction very quickly. Lack of traction causes the wheels to spin when accelerating and to lock when braking. You can easily lose control of the steering.

In winter, temperatures can change quickly, causing unpredictable road traction. Temperatures near freezing are more dangerous than colder temperatures. Although the road may look the same, ice can form unexpectedly and may not be visible.

Be aware of hidden dangers:

- **Black ice** is caused by moisture freezing on the road surface. Normally you can't see it. But if the asphalt looks shiny and black instead of gray-white, be suspicious.
- **Shaded areas** may still be icy even after the sun has melted the ice on the other parts of the road.
- **Bridges and overpasses** tend to form ice on their surfaces before other road surfaces do.
- **Intersections** ice up quickly because of car exhaust and snow packing.

warning!

It can take you 10 times the normal braking distance to stop on ice.

Strategies: Handling ice and snow

When faced with icy or snowy driving conditions:

Plan ahead

- Check the weather forecast before starting out. Staying home may be the wisest choice.
- Use tires that are suitable for winter conditions.
- Carry chains. Snow tires and/or chains are a good idea on Yukon roads during the winter.
- Carry sand or a piece of carpet to use if you become stuck on ice or in snow.

See

- Make sure you can see. Scrape snow or frost from the windows and mirrors, get rid of any ice or snow on the wipers and clean all the lights before driving.
- Scan further ahead when driving to give yourself a larger safety margin.

Think

- Plan turns and stops further ahead so you have more time to react.

Do

- Slow down.
- Accelerate gently. Sudden starts can send a vehicle into a skid or cause the wheels to spin.
- Carefully test your braking and steering at a very low speed. Use this test to decide whether to continue, or whether to slow down more.

- Ease off the brakes and then re-apply them to maintain steering control if the wheels lock.
- Slow down before entering curves and corners. Braking in curves may cause you to skid.
- Use a low gear to go down hills that are icy.
- Don't use cruise control in icy or snowy driving conditions.
- Allow extra space margins (including more following distance).
- Avoid passing unless absolutely necessary.
- Travel in the section of road with the least amount of snow or ice if you have the choice of more than one lane.
- Use a gentle, smooth steering motion.

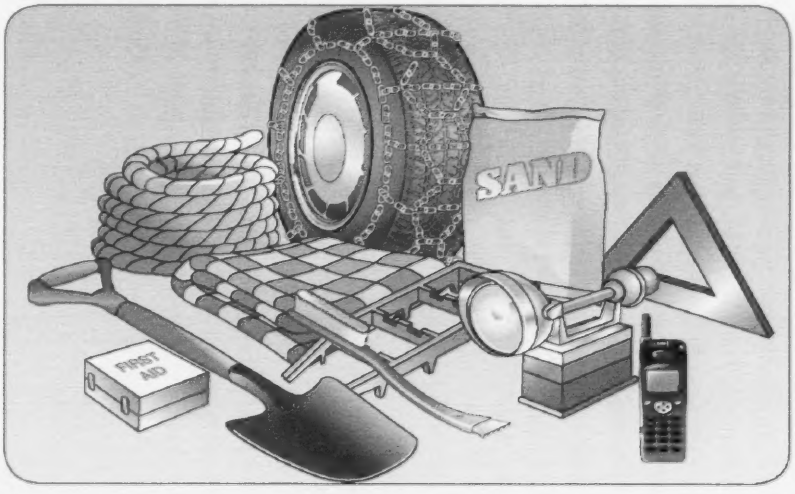
Stranded or snowbound

If you're stranded in snow, stay with your vehicle unless you are absolutely sure you can reach help.

If you decide to run the car to keep the interior warm, only do this for about five minutes every hour. You must be very cautious because the car could fill with carbon monoxide gas. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause dizziness or drowsiness and even lead to death. Make sure you also check that the exhaust pipe and exhaust system are not blocked or damaged because this could cause increased leakage of carbon monoxide into the car. Keep one window slightly open at all times for fresh air. Make sure that at least one person stays awake at all times.

warning!

If you feel dizzy or drowsy while your vehicle is running, you may be getting carbon monoxide poisoning. Turn off the engine and get plenty of fresh air.



think about

The equipment you need for winter driving. On long trips through rural areas, or with passengers, what else might be useful?

Turbulence

Watch out for crosswinds, headwinds and tailwinds. These can make it difficult for you to control steering. Even a passing tractor-trailer can create enough turbulence to move a vehicle.

Strategies: Dealing with turbulence

If you experience turbulence while driving:

- Slow down.
- Grip the steering wheel firmly with both hands.
- Watch out for vehicles that could be more easily forced into your path like motorcycles, small cars, campers and vehicles towing trailers.
- Allow extra space on the side if you are passing a large truck or trailer.

fast fact

Driving in strong cross winds can make turbulence harder to handle.

Night hazards

You in the driver's seat

You've been driving all day to reach the city where your friends live. Now it's nighttime, and you're feeling a bit drowsy. You're on a quiet rural road. There is very little traffic, but you see a car approaching from a distance. You switch from high beam to low beam. The other driver isn't dimming the headlights. They are shining straight into your eyes, and it's hard for you to see.

What should you do?

Driving at night is a challenge for all drivers. It means your vision is limited and you can't be seen as well. You can't judge distances as well either. You will need to be more alert to practise **see-think-do** effectively.

Using the headlights

Make sure you use the right headlights for the driving conditions. Low beam headlights will light up a path up to 30 metres straight ahead of you. High beams give you about 100 metres of light.

Be sure to use your headlights properly.

- The law states you must have your headlights on at all times when driving Yukon highways.

driving tip

Do you have trouble judging distances? Most people do. Be courteous and dim your lights early.

- It is illegal to drive at night with parking lights or daytime running lights instead of headlights.
- You must dim your high beam headlights when you are within 150 metres of another vehicle, either when meeting or following a vehicle.
- You must also use headlights if visibility is reduced to less than 150 metres (e.g., in fog or heavy rain).

Daytime

Low beam headlights

High beam headlights

Overdriving the headlights

Be careful not to overdrive your headlights at night, or in fog, rain or snow. Overdriving happens if you go too fast and you are not able to stop within the distance covered by your headlights. It is especially dangerous in a curve.

Strategies: Night driving

To reduce the risks of driving at night:

- Keep your eyes moving. Scan carefully for pedestrians, cyclists and animals on the road.
- Avoid glare from lights. Glance to the right edge of the road to avoid glare from oncoming lights. Adjust your rear-view mirror to the night-driving position to avoid headlight glare from vehicles behind you. Adjust your outside rear-view mirrors so that the body of the vehicle is just outside your view; this will help reduce blind spots as well as glare. Keep interior lights off and keep the instrument panel lights low.
- Keep your windows and lights clean.
- Stay alert at night. Sing, talk out loud or stop for a cup of coffee to make sure you stay awake.
- Slow down.
- Increase your following distance.

Vehicle breakdowns

An unexpected vehicle breakdown can create a dangerous situation for you and your passengers. The best prevention is having a well-maintained vehicle and doing regular and pre-trip checks.

Tire blowout

think about

What a slow leak feels like and how it affects your driving.

You in the driver's seat

You are driving along a highway when your front tire suddenly blows out.

What should you do?

When a front tire blows out, your vehicle can be pulled in the direction of the deflated tire, especially at high speeds. A rear blowout can cause the vehicle to start skidding.

driving tip

Be sure you know how to change a tire. Is your vehicle carrying the equipment you need? Is packing a tire repair kit a good idea?

Strategies: Handling a tire blowout

To help stay safe when a tire blows out:

- Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel.
- Don't brake suddenly and risk loss of steering control. Ease off the accelerator and let the vehicle decelerate slowly. You can start to brake gently once the car has slowed down.
- If you start to skid, steer in the direction you want to go. (See **Skid control** earlier in this chapter.)
- Signal or put on the hazard lights and pull off the road as soon as it's safe.

Brake failure

Total brake failure is rare. However, if your brake system fails, you will need to use your **see-think-do** skills to respond quickly and safely.

Strategies: Handling brake failure

If your brakes ever fail:

- Don't panic. Keep thinking about the hazards in front of you and how to avoid them.
- Look for an escape route or something to slow you down (like a side road or open field).
- Pump the brakes hard and fast. You may be able to get enough braking action to stop the vehicle.
- Gear down to the lowest gear so the engine will help slow you down.
- Apply the parking brake gently and gradually. Use the brake release as you do this, so you are prepared to release the brake quickly if the car goes into a skid.
- Use the hazard lights or the horn to warn other drivers.

driving tip

If you have power or power-assisted steering, you can still steer even after the engine has stopped. You just need to use more effort. If the engine stops, don't turn the ignition off, because the steering will lock.

Engine problems

You never know when the engine may die. If this happens, you need to move out of traffic and into a safe place as quickly as possible.

Strategies: Handling engine failure

If your engine ever fails:

- Signal and steer to the edge of the road.
- Try to get to the nearest exit or service area or pull off the road as far as possible on a busy highway or freeway. Avoid stopping on a bridge or in a tunnel if at all possible.
- Turn on your hazard lights.
- Set out flares or a warning triangle if it is dark or visibility is limited.
- Stay with your vehicle. Put a HELP sign on your windshield.
- Consider carrying a cellphone if you often travel on freeways or isolated roadways. In Yukon, cellphones may only work in communities. Let someone know your travel plans before you leave.
- Never get into a stranger's vehicle. Ask them to continue ahead and phone for you.
- Don't try to do roadside repairs on crowded and fast-moving freeways.

warning!

If your vehicle catches fire, stop and get everyone out immediately. Do not open the hood — that could cause the fire to spread. Move well away from the vehicle.

think about

Whether you'll equip your vehicle with flares. What about a HELP sign?

Headlight failure

It is dangerous and illegal to drive at night without headlights. You must get off the road as quickly as possible if your lights fail.

Strategies: Handling headlight failure

If your headlights ever fail:

- Turn the light switch on and off quickly.
- Turn on the hazard lights if the headlights stay off.
- Slow down, pull off the road and get help.

Hood flying up

Hoods can fly up if they are not securely latched. If you notice that your hood is not properly latched, pull over and fully close the hood.

Strategies: Hood flying up

Don't panic if you find yourself blinded by the hood flying up when you're driving.

- Try to look through the crack below the hood or open your window and look in the direction you're travelling.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Turn on the hazard lights.
- Pump your brakes to warn drivers behind you that you're slowing down.
- Steer over to the side of the road.

Be conscious that there could be cars or people on the edge of the road or that you could be on a multi-lane road.

warning!

Never reach down with your hand to release a stuck gas pedal because you could easily lose control of the vehicle.

Gas pedal sticking

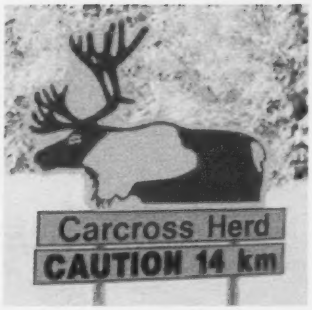
The gas pedal can stick due to ice or snow build-up, or because of a malfunction.

You may be able to release the pedal by using your toe to lift it if you are travelling at a very low speed when the pedal sticks.

Strategies: Stuck gas pedal

If your gas pedal sticks:

- Apply the brake.
- Look for an escape path that will get you off the road. Continue to brake.
- Shift to neutral to disconnect the engine from the wheels. (This may damage your engine but it's better than crashing. Note that steering and braking will become harder if the engine stops.)
- Follow your escape path and, once you're stopped, turn off the engine.
- Do not try to start the engine again. Call for help instead.



Animals on the road

You in the driver's seat

You're driving along a rural highway at dusk. You're keeping a careful watch for animals; you've seen bison and elk in this area before. Suddenly, a large elk steps out from the brush, right into your path.

What should you do?

warning!

Drive with extra caution when you see animal signs posted along the road. These signs are posted in areas with a history of wildlife/vehicle collisions.

In Yukon, animals on the road are a major hazard. Crashing into a large animal can cause damage and injury, not just to the animal, but to you and your passengers.

driving tip

If you see an animal on the road, slow down and try flashing your headlights from high to low beam.

Strategies: Watching for animals

To help prevent a collision with an animal:

- Scan the sides of the roadway ahead for animals.
- Watch for animal crossing signs when driving through farming or wooded areas. Slow down in these areas.
- Be extra cautious at dusk and dawn. This is when animals move around to feed, and it is also harder for you to see them at these times.
- Look for sudden, unusual spots of light on the roadway at night. This may be the reflection of your headlights off an animal's eyes.
- Remember that wild animals often move in herds. If you see one animal, there may be more.

driving tip

Take extra care when driving near horses and riders. Slow down and give them lots of space when you pass. Don't honk the horn because this could cause the horse to bolt into your path.

driving tip

Watch the ditches on either side of the road for animals. Also consider whether you could safely drive into the ditch in an emergency.

Strategies: When an animal is in your path

If an animal is directly in front of you:

- Check your rear-view mirror to see if there is a vehicle behind you, or if you can stop suddenly.
- Assess the risks and decide on an action. Can you stop safely? Can you steer around the animal? Would it be better to hit the animal or risk a crash?
- Slow down but resist the urge to slam on your brakes when you see an animal. This could send your vehicle out of control.
- Leave a wide margin when you drive around an animal. A frightened animal may run in any direction.
- If the animal is large and you can't stop in time, brake firmly and steer to strike the animal at an angle. Let up on the brake pedal just before hitting the animal. This will cause the front of your vehicle to rise and reduce the chance that the animal will come through the windshield.

Collision avoidance

You in the driver's seat

You're driving up a hill. Suddenly a car is coming right toward you in your lane.

What should you do?

No one wants to be involved in a collision, but you may find yourself in a situation where one is unavoidable. The best way to avoid collisions is to use your **see-think-do** skills. Keep yourself alert, scan systematically, maintain good space margins and travel at the appropriate speed. These steps will help you avoid most collisions.

Even if you're faced with an unavoidable collision, you can sometimes reduce the impact. You will need to think quickly to do this.

driving tip

In an emergency, try to steer away from light standards and power poles. Crashing your vehicle into hard, thin objects increases the risk of death and injuries.

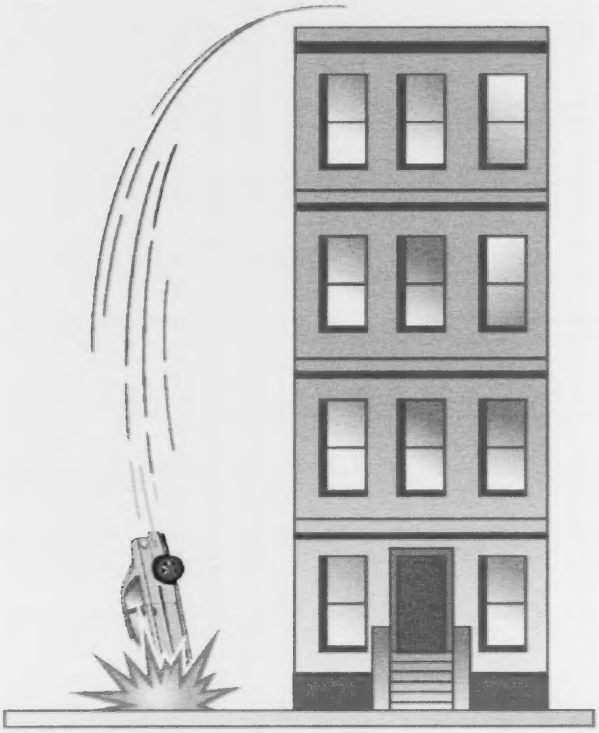
Strategies: Avoiding crashes or reducing the impact

These techniques may help avoid a crash or reduce the impact of a crash:

- Slow down as much as possible.
- Try to avoid locking the brakes.
- Try to steer for something that will cushion your car, like bushes or a high snow bank. Avoid hard objects like parked cars or trees.
- Try to avoid a head-on collision at all costs by steering to the side. Steer to the right, not the left, as the oncoming driver may steer to the right.
- Use the horn. This may help the other driver regain alertness.

crash fact

Crashing into a solid object at 30 km/h is like sitting in a vehicle when it falls from a one-storey building. At 60 km/h, hitting a solid object is like being in a vehicle when it falls from the roof of a four-storey building.



As shown in the graphic above, twice the speed means four times the force of impact. This is one reason why speed is such an important factor in crashes, and why slowing down saves lives.

think about

If you arrive at the scene of a crash, you may decide to stop and help. Think about what you would do. What would you like others to do if you were involved in a crash?

At the scene of a crash

You in the driver's seat

As you round a curve, you hear the sound of screeching brakes followed by a crash. You slow down and see that the car in front of you has rear-ended a truck.

What should you do?

driving tip

When driving by a crash scene, don't slow down more than necessary. Stay focused on your driving to avoid causing another crash.

You arrive at the scene of a crash

If other drivers have been involved in a crash, they may need assistance.

Strategies: Assisting at a crash scene

Here are some of the ways you might be able to help:

- Make sure your vehicle is parked away from the crash where it won't hold up other traffic or emergency vehicles.
- Take measures to alert other drivers that there has been a crash: for example, set up warning triangles. This will help to avoid further crashes and injuries.
- Call for emergency services if necessary. Consider carrying a cellphone for emergency situations.
- Stay with injured people until help arrives.
- Do not let anyone smoke or light matches near the scene. There could be a fuel leak.

You are involved in a crash

Legal responsibilities

You have certain legal responsibilities if:

- you're involved in a crash
- other drivers have a crash because of something you do.

In either of these cases, you are legally required to:

1. Remain at the scene.
2. Give all reasonable assistance. Call for emergency services if you can and if necessary.

driving tip

Record important information at the scene of a crash.

3. You must exchange the following information with the other driver, anyone who has been injured and anyone whose property has been damaged:
   - your name and address
   - the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle
   - the licence plate number
   - insurance information.

   You must also provide this information to the police or a witness if requested.

Suggestions

Here are some other things you should do:

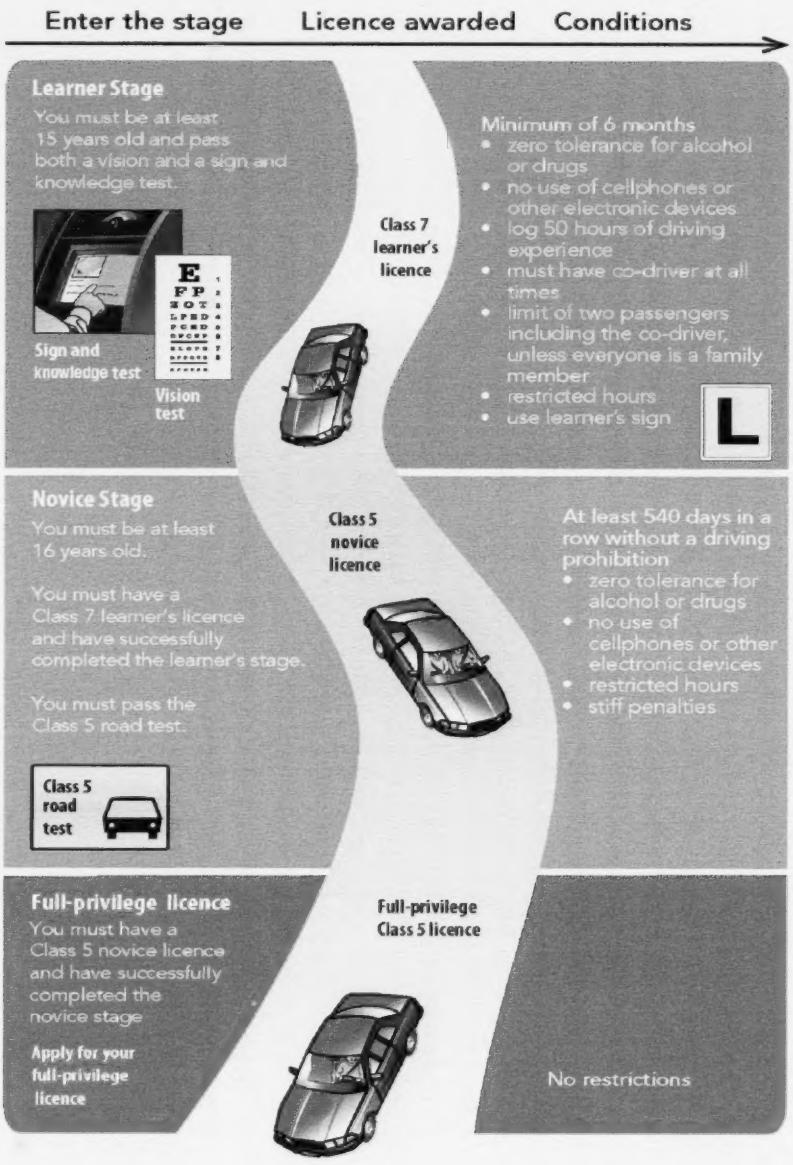
- Move the vehicles off the road if it is safe to do so.
- Avoid discussing who is at fault for the crash.
- Write down the names and addresses of all witnesses.
- Exchange driver's licence numbers with any other drivers involved.
- Draw a sketch or take photos of the scene, noting conditions such as time, location and weather.
- Notify your insurance company right away.

9 graduated driver's licence program

in this chapter

- Learner's stage: Class 7
- What you need to take to the driver licencing office
- Testing for your learner's licence
- Learning to drive
- Learner's stage driving restrictions and conditions
- Novice stage
- Preparing for your road test
- The Class 5 road test
- Novice stage driving restrictions and conditions
- Full-privilege Class 5 licence

Yukon's Graduated Driver's Licence (GDL) program is designed to reduce the number of crashes involving new drivers of any age. Under GDL, new drivers gain experience gradually, under conditions that expose them to less risk. To get your full-privilege Class 5 licence, you'll go through several stages.


Enter the stage
Licence awarded
Conditions
Learner Stage
You must be at least 15 years old and pass both a vision and a sign and knowledge test.
Sign and knowledge test
Vision test
Class 7 learner's licence
Minimum of 6 months
• zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs
• no use of cellphones or other electronic devices
• log 50 hours of driving experience
• must have co-driver at all times
• limit of two passengers including the co-driver, unless everyone is a family member
• restricted hours
• use learner's sign
L
Novice Stage
You must be at least 16 years old.
You must have a Class 7 learner's licence and have successfully completed the learner's stage.
You must pass the Class 5 road test.
Class 5 road test
Class 5 novice licence
At least 540 days in a row without a driving prohibition
• zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs
• no use of cellphones or other electronic devices
• restricted hours
• stiff penalties
Full-privilege licence
You must have a Class 5 novice licence and have successfully completed the novice stage
Apply for your full-privilege licence
Full-privilege Class 5 licence
No restrictions

fast fact

Motor vehicle offices

Carcross, 821-4281

Carmacks, 863-6411

Dawson City, 993-5348

Faro, 994-2724

Haines Junction, 634-2201

Mayo, 996-2276

Old Crow, 966-3261

Ross River, 969-2347

Teslin, 390-2024

Watson Lake, 536-7311

Whitehorse, 667-5315 or toll-free in Yukon at 1-800-661-0408, extension 5315

Learner's stage: Class 7

The first licence new drivers receive is a learner's licence. You must be at least 15 years old to apply for your learner's licence. You'll also need to pass the sign and knowledge test and pass a vision screening. This licence is valid for five years.

To apply, go to your nearest Motor Vehicles office. There is a motor vehicles office in most Yukon communities to serve you.

If you pass the tests, you'll be issued a Class 7 learner's licence and a Graduated Driver's Licence (GDL) information package.

What to bring to Motor Vehicles

Proving your identity

The first time you get a driver's licence, you will need to provide several government-issued documents as proof of your identity showing your photo, signature, date of birth and full legal name:

Your photo and signature - Bring at least one of these: Canadian driver's licence, passport, Customs and Immigration Canada (CIC) documents or secure Indian Status Card. If you don't have any of these, you can bring a guarantor form completed by a Yukon resident over 18 who has known you at least two years.

Your date of birth - Bring at least one of these: birth certificate, CIC documents, or a secure Indian Status Card.

Your full, current legal name - Bring your birth certificate, valid passport or permanent resident card showing your full, current legal name. If these documents don't show your current legal name, please bring, marriage certificate(s) or legal name change document(s) showing how your birth name became your current legal name.

Proving Yukon residency

A Yukon driver's licence may only be issued to residents of Yukon. To prove you live in Yukon you must bring:

1) a valid Yukon health care card, AND

2) one of the following documents that shows your current Yukon address, such as:

- a legal rental agreement or mortgage papers
- bank statement or credit card bill addressed to you
- a letter from your Yukon employer written on company letterhead
- a utility bill addressed to you, such as a bill from Northwestel for cable or a land line (not a cell phone), or an electric bill from Yukon Electric or Yukon Energy.

note

New Yukon residents may apply for a driver's licence before they qualify for a Yukon Health Card by bringing two documents showing their new Yukon address.

note

A complete list of accepted documents can be found by visiting Motor Vehicles at *www.hpw.gov.yk.ca/mv*. You can also find current fees and other licensing information on the website or by contacting your local Motor Vehicles office.

Remember to bring

- fees for the sign and knowledge test and Class 7 licence. (You can pay with cash, debit, Visa, Master Card or American Express.
- glasses or contact lenses if you need them to drive

Applicants under 18 years old

If you are under 18, your parent must come with you to sign the application. Applicant and parent must both provide proof of identity and Yukon residency. You may be able to bypass this requirement if you have proof that you are self-supporting and not living with a parent or legal guardian.

Citizenship

If you are a newcomer to Canada, please bring proof of citizenship, record of landing or your passport accompanied by your work permit,, study permit, visitor permit , or other related identification to prove your current status in Yukon.

You must also provide two pieces of documentation providing proof of Yukon residency, see above for examples.

Testing for your learner's licence

The sign and knowledge test

The sign and knowledge test is a two-part, multiple choice written exam that measures how well you know road signs, rules of the road and safe driving practices. The pass mark is 80 per cent.

driving tip

Check with your local Motor Vehicles office to find out when you can take written tests.

These tests are available in English, French, Mandarin, Cantonese and Tagalog/Filipino. Oral testing may be arranged for applicants who do not have a good command of any of these languages.

note

Make sure you arrive at the office at least one hour before closing to take your sign and knowledge test or you may be turned away.

Vision screening

When you apply for your licence, your vision will be checked to make sure you can see well enough to drive safely. You may need to have further vision testing by an optometrist or ophthalmologist if you don't pass the vision screening. If you need to wear glasses or contact lenses when you drive, this restriction will be shown on your licence.

Medical requirements

Medical reports for classes 5, 6 and 7 are not required until you reach 70 years old. A medical report is required again at age 75, and again at age 80, and then every two years after that.

The law requires that you report any medical condition, change in health, or physical disability that may affect your driving. Medical practitioners and optometrists are also required by law to report to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles if they feel that the health or vision of a person holding or applying for a driver's licence may interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

Learning to drive

fast fact

You can complete the Graduated Driver's Licence program on a motorcycle if you choose. You can begin at the minimum age of 15 by completing the written tests and logging 30 hours of driving practice for at least six months in the Learner's stage.

At the minimum age of 16, you may complete a road test and remain in the Novice stage of the GDL program for 18 months before moving on to a full-privilege motorcycle licence.

Once you have your Class 7 learner's licence, you are in the learner's stage of the Graduated Driver's Licence program. It is in this stage that you put the knowledge learned from this handbook into practice and start to build your life-long safe driving habits.

You will be in the learner's stage for at least six months. During this time, you (with a co-driver) are required to log 50 hours of driving practice on the drive sheets you receive in your GDL package. During your practice sessions, you must drive in a variety of traffic and weather situations, such as highway and urban driving, night time and winter driving. Apart from being required, this is why it is important to use an experienced and trusted co-driver.

Choosing your co-driver

You need to choose a co-driver who will be serious about helping you become a skilled, safe driver. You are allowed to log your 50 hours with as many co-drivers as you wish.

Here are some things to consider when choosing your co-driver.

- Is this person ready to commit the **time** needed to practice?
- Is this person a **skilled, experienced driver**? Your co-driver must have held a full-privilege suspension-free licence for at least two years immediately prior to teaching you to drive.
- Will this person **provide a good example of safe** driving? Can he or she be relied on to drive free of alcohol or drugs? Do they drive within the speed limits, with attention to the road conditions, and avoid other risks on the road?
- Is this person able to **get information and ideas across clearly**?
- Does he or she have the **patience** to guide you effectively?

Choosing a driving school

You can prepare for the Class 5 road test by taking lessons from a professional driving instructor. There are good reasons to take driving lessons. Learning to drive skillfully and safely is not easy. Qualified instructors are often more effective than family members or friends at training new drivers.

think about

Getting a professional driving instructor to help you brush up your driving skills as you are preparing for the Class 5 road test.

When choosing a driving school, you may want to ask:

- ☐ Is your school a government-approved training school? Do your instructors have government-certified driver education training certificates and are they properly licensed? Ask to see the licences and certificates.
- ☐ Can I see a written policy of your rates (including all charges), hours, number of people in a training vehicle and refunds? The school must provide this to you.
- ☐ Is your school recognized by insurance companies for a better rate on insurance coverage?
- ☐ Can I see a course outline?
- ☐ What are your methods of instruction (e.g., one-on-one, classroom groups, etc.)?
- ☐ How experienced are your instructors? How much recent training have they had?
- ☐ How do you involve parents/guardians or adult supervisors in new driver's education?
- ☐ How do you keep your practice cars safe and well maintained?
- ☐ Do you have a vehicle with standard transmission if I want to learn how to drive one?
- ☐ What do I need to know before starting your course (i.e., type of clothing, equipment, gear, etc.)?

Finally, ask other people: What has been your experience with the school?

fast fact

Zero tolerance means absolutely no amounts of alcohol or drugs in your body. For alcohol, this means not even a single drink. You must have a blood alcohol content of zero. The same applies for drugs that impair your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Learner's stage driving restrictions and conditions

While you are driving with a learner's licence, you must follow these restrictions and conditions:

- Zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs by the driver.
- Zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs by the co-driver.
- Driver may not use either hand-held or hands-free electronic devices, including cell phones, while driving.

- Co-driver (two years suspension-free) must accompany the learner at all times.
- Limit of two passengers including the co-driver, unless each passenger over that limit is a parent, grandparent, spouse, brother, sister or child.
- Driver can only operate a passenger vehicle weighing up to 4,000 kg.
- Driver may only operate a motor vehicle between 5 a.m. and midnight.
- A student driver, or "L" sign, must be visible to operators of vehicles approaching from behind.
- Driver and co-driver must make a true statement of logged driving hours and an honest declaration of driving experience.
- You may not operate any motor vehicle for which you do not hold a licence.

You must restart the learner's stage if any of these restrictions or conditions are broken.

driving tip

Free replacement "L" signs are available at any Motor Vehicles office.

Novice stage

To get your novice licence, you must pass the Class 5 road test. This test assesses whether you are ready to drive on your own. By the time you take the Class 5 road test, you will be 16 years old and have had your learner's licence for at least six months. You will have honestly logged 50 hours of driving practice with your co-driver in a variety of driving conditions and situations.

To develop the skills and experience needed to pass the road test and build the foundation for lifelong safe driving, spend some time driving at night, in the winter, on the highway and in a busy urban area.

Preparing for your road test

You can prepare for the test by reviewing this guide and using the *Yukon Class 5 Road Test Guide* to help you practise.

Here are some things you can expect during your road test.

Before you start — The examiner checks that you know where the controls are, you use your seatbelt, and you adjust your seat, mirrors and head restraints for maximum safety.

note

If English is not your first language, here are some words to help you practise hazard perception:

- car
- bus
- too close
- pedestrian
- bump
- can't see
- bicyclist
- children
- animal
- construction
- truck
- wet road
- curve
- warning sign
- dangerous driver
- rough pavement
- turning right
- hill
- pulling out
- ice
- blind spot
- motorcyclist
- snow
- turning left.

During your road test, if you see a hazard you don't know the English word for, you may point at it.

Using your skills — The Class 5 road test assesses your ability to perform the **see-think-do** skills: observation, hazard perception, speed control, space margins, steering and communication. For more information about these skills, see Chapter 5, **see-think-do**.

Your Class 5 road test may include:

- using intersections (driving through, turning right, turning left)
- backing up
- entering traffic
- pulling over and stopping on the side of the road
- changing lanes
- parking on a hill
- starting on a hill
- angle parking
- parallel parking
- stall parking (driving forward and backing up)
- two- and three-point turns
- merging on and off a highway
- general driving (such as driving straight, driving on hills and curves).

The Class 5 road test

The driver examiner will conduct the Class 5 road test and mark your ability to drive in a safe, smooth and controlled manner. The road test takes about 30 minutes. You must provide a safe vehicle to use for your road test. Only the examiner or other authorized people are allowed in the vehicle during a road test. Pets and passengers are not allowed.

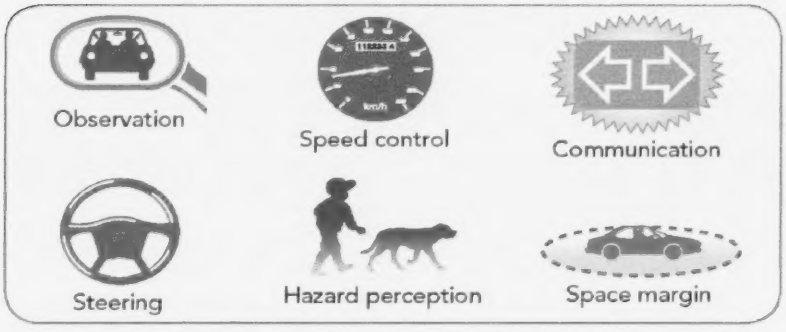
When you're ready to take your Class 5 road test, contact the Motor Vehicles office nearest you:

- Class 5 road tests can only be booked after your logbook has been dropped off for inspection.
- The soonest you can book a Class 5 road test is one week after you drop off your logbook for inspection.
- You must pay your road test fee at the time of booking.

Examiners' tips for passing the Class 5 road test

Here are some tips on how to prepare to pass the road test:

- Keep to the posted speed limits. Don't try to keep up with speeding traffic.
- Watch for school and playground zones. Speeding through school and playground zones is a common reason for drivers to fail their test.
- Make full stops at stop signs, and make sure you stop in the correct position. When it's safe to move out, pull out slowly, scanning the intersection.
- When turning right, shoulder check to the right to ensure there are no cyclists, pedestrians or other road users heading straight through the intersection (and into your path).
- Mirror check, signal and shoulder check whenever you change lanes or direction.
- Keep a safe distance from other vehicles.
- Scan intersections before driving through, even if the light is green when you approach.
- When merging onto a highway, use the acceleration lane to get up to the speed of the highway traffic, while remaining within the speed limit. Do a lane change when safe to do so.
- If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask! We'll be happy to answer them before you start your road test.



Driver examiners will mark you on the **see-think-do** skills you read about in this guide.

note

DON'T BE LATE
If you show up late for your road test you will be sent away. If you can't keep your appointment, you need to notify Motor Vehicles. If you don't cancel with Motor Vehicles at least 24 hours in advance, you'll lose the road test fee you paid when you made the appointment.

What to bring to your road test

- ☐ your driver's licence
- ☐ glasses or contact lenses if you need them to drive
- ☐ valid vehicle registration and insurance
- ☐ a clean and safe vehicle.

Strategies: Ensuring your vehicle is safe

For your road test, make sure you have a safe, reliable vehicle that meets legal requirements. Also, make sure you are familiar with the vehicle. Here is a list of some of the items to check for. Your road test may be cancelled if any of these items are defective on the vehicle you bring for your road test:

- ☐ Seatbelts — make sure they work, and wear them properly
- ☐ Head restraints — adjust your head restraint to suit you
- ☐ Mirrors — adjust them to suit you
- ☐ Horn — check to see that it works
- ☐ Doors — make sure both driver-side and passenger-side doors open and close properly
- ☐ Windows, windshields — make sure they are clean, have no cracks, open and close, and are not illegally tinted
- ☐ Windshield wipers — make sure they work
- ☐ Heaters, defrosters — do you know how they work? You may need to use them to keep the windows clear during your road test
- ☐ Brakes — do both the foot brake and parking brake work properly?
- ☐ Tires — are they in good safe condition?
- ☐ Lights — do you know how to operate the headlights, tail lights, brake lights and turn signals? Do they all work properly?
- ☐ Exhaust system — is it in good condition?
- ☐ Bumpers — must not be missing
- ☐ Licence plate — Is it properly displayed along with a valid decal? Are the vehicle registration and insurance papers in the vehicle?

warning!

The vehicle you bring for your road test must be clean and smoke-free or you will be turned away.

After your road test

At the end of the test, the examiner will discuss your results with you. Make sure you ask questions if you don't understand something.

Whether you have passed or failed, you can learn how to improve your driving. If you failed, the length of time you will have to keep practicing in the learner's stage will depend on the number of tests taken and the reasons for your road test failure. The additional practice time required can range from a week to months.

Novice stage driving restrictions and conditions

You must hold a Class 5 (35) novice licence for at least 18 months in a row without any violations of the program restrictions. The Class 5 (35) novice licence allows you to drive without a co-driver. It differs from the full-privilege Class 5 licence in that it includes the following restrictions and conditions:

- Zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use by the driver.
- Zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use by the co-driver when accompanying the driver between midnight and 5 a.m.
- Driver may not use either hand-held or hands-free electronic devices, including cell phones, while driving.
- Novice must be accompanied by a co-driver (suspension free for at least two years) between midnight and 5 a.m.
- Co-driver restriction may not apply to a driver who has been approved for a midnight exemption by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.
- Limited to operating passenger vehicles (includes car, trucks and vans up to 4,000 kg) and not exceeding a nine-person capacity.
- No passengers are allowed in the box of a truck.

Novices may not operate any motor vehicle for which they do not hold a licence.

fast fact

If you are prohibited from driving while in the GDL program, you will lose any time you have gained toward graduating from the Graduated Licencing Program. In other words, your clock is reset to zero.

Graduated Driver's Licence (GDL) penalties

When you're a new driver, your record is closely monitored by the Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles. If you get a traffic violation ticket or other driving offence, you could receive a warning letter, probation or prohibition from driving. In addition to the regular driving penalties, there are extra penalties for GDL drivers.

- At seven demerit points, your licence will be suspended for one month: that could be just two traffic violations.
- More points or more serious offences could result in a suspension from driving for two months to a year, or more.
- If you violate the blood alcohol restriction, or operate a vehicle while under the influence of drugs, you may receive an immediate 24-hour roadside suspension. Police may also impound your vehicle. You'll have this charge recorded on your driver's record for all time and you may also face impaired driving criminal charges.
- While you are suspended you will not add any time toward your graduation from Yukon's GDL program.

Full-privilege Class 5 licence

After you have held your novice licence for at least 18 months in a row while observing all of the program conditions, you may apply for a full-privilege licence at any Motor Vehicles office in Yukon.

Chapter 10 gives more information on Yukon's full-privilege driver's licence.

What to bring to Motor Vehicles

Whether you are a new driver, a driver from another jurisdiction or a person re-taking a test, you can use this checklist and be sure you arrive at Motor Vehicles prepared.

Always bring I.D. and fees for the service or licence you want.

To get your learner's or driver's licence you need to bring:

Government-issued documents to prove your identity showing your photo, signature, date of birth and current legal name.

- ☐ **Photo and signature** - Bring at least one of these: Canadian driver's licence, passport, Customs and Immigration Canada (CIC) documents or secure Indian Status Card.
- ☐ **Date of Birth** - Bring at least one of these: birth certificate, CIC documents, or a secure Indian Status Card.
- ☐ **Current legal name** - Bring your birth certificate, valid passport or permanent resident card showing your full, current legal name. If these documents don't show your current legal name, please bring your marriage certificate(s) or legal name change document(s) to show how your birth name became your current legal name.

TWO documents to prove you live in Yukon

- ☐ Yukon health care card. New Yukon residents who don't qualify for a Yukon Health Card may bring two of the following documents showing their new Yukon address.
- ☐ **PLUS** a bill or statement addressed to you showing your Yukon address, such as a utility or credit card bill, or a statement on company letterhead from your employer, or your property tax statement or most recent tax return.
- ☐ Your **parent or legal guardian** if you are under 18.
- ☐ **Fees** for the sign and knowledge tests and for the licence you want.

For more information and a list of current fees, visit Motor Vehicles online at *www.hpw.gov.yk.ca/mv* or contact your local Motor Vehicles office.

For road tests you need to bring:

- ☐ your current licence
- ☐ a safe vehicle, with registration and insurance papers
- ☐ glasses or contact lenses, if you need them to drive
- ☐ your co-driver if this is a Class 5 novice road test

note

Make sure you arrive at the office at least one hour before closing to take your sign and knowledge test. No written testing within one hour of closing.

note

All road tests are by appointment only. You must book ahead in person. If you can't keep your road test appointment, notify Motor Vehicles at least 24 hours in advance or your road test fee will not be refunded.

note

When renewing your annual vehicle registration, be sure to bring your renewal form and proof of insurance, or renew online.

Identification (ID)

Over time, a driver's licence has become more than a licence to operate a vehicle. A driver's licence is now a common form of government-issued identification to prove your age, place of residence and identity.

To ensure that all Yukon residents can have government-issued ID, Motor Vehicles also issues a general identification card, available to people of all ages, especially those who don't have a driver's licence. People eligible to have a driver's licence may have a general identification card as well. Having both ID cards can be helpful when a driver's licence is damaged, stolen or lost, or when your driver's licence is taken away for driving offences.

note

You can avoid delays and additional trips to Motor Vehicles if you remember to bring all the required documents with you. See the checklist on the other side of this page.

Yukon's driver's licence and general identification card are widely accepted and trusted forms of identification.

The secure licence application process helps prevent someone from getting a driver's licence or general identification card in your name, which could lead to someone getting a credit card, bank card, or other documents in your name. If you are a victim of identity theft, you may suffer financial losses, a poor credit rating and a damaged reputation.

Yukon's driver's licence and general identification card are issued in your full legal name only. If your current full legal name is not shown on your birth certificate or valid passport you will need to bring in ALL name change documents to link back to your birth certificate, such as legal name change certificate(s) and/or marriage certificate(s).

A photocopy of a document is only accepted if it is certified as a true copy by the government agency that issued it.

If you are a newcomer to Canada and do not have the required identification documents, please contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada at 1-888-242-2100.

Always bring government-issued identification plus two documents showing that you live in Yukon each time you come to Motor Vehicles.

10 yukon driver's licence

in this chapter

- Your driver's licence
- Summary of licence classes
- Responsibilities
  - protecting your driver's licence
  - medical requirements
  - new Yukon residents
  - retesting
  - reclassifying your licence
  - keeping your licence up-to-date
  - driving in other locations
  - insuring your vehicle
- Enforcement
  - outstanding fines
  - penalties for unsafe and impaired driving
  - registrar suspensions
  - getting your licence back
  - vehicle impoundment

Your driver's licence

Some people stop learning as soon as they pass their road test. You may know people who still drive the same way now as they did when they got their driver's licence many years ago. This may not be safe. Even if their driving skills and knowledge haven't changed, other things have. Road signs may be different now. Traffic has probably increased. Vehicles have changed; the car they are driving now may be quite different from the one they used to learn to drive.

In your driving career, you may take on additional driving challenges, such as towing a trailer, driving a large recreational vehicle or driving for many passengers. You will need to get information to help you know how to drive safely. You may decide to take driving lessons or practise with a driver experienced in this type of driving.

Even if you do not change the type of vehicle you drive, your driving will probably change with age and experience. Research shows that it takes about five years for new drivers to develop into fully experienced drivers who are able to do several driving tasks at once. After that, people still need to work at keeping their driving skills sharp and up-to-date if they want to be safe on the road.

This chapter covers information that you need to be aware of as a Yukon driver.

Summary of licence classes

This chart shows the various classes of licences for Yukon drivers. For more detailed information on Yukon licence classes contact your nearest Motor Vehicles office.

Class	Typical vehicles	Minimum age
Class 1	• semi-trailer trucks • permits you to drive all types of vehicles except Class 6	18
Class 2	• motor coaches, transit buses, school buses, special activity buses with seating for over 24 passengers • permits you to drive all types of vehicles except Class 1 and Class 6	18
Class 3	• heavy vehicles, with two or more axles, that weigh over 11,000 kg. such as dump trucks, large tow trucks, fuel delivery trucks, moving trucks, buses without passengers, large motor homes over 11,000 kg. • towing trailers weighing under 4,550 kg. • permits you to drive Class 5 vehicles • Class 4 vehicles may be driven if approved by a driver's medical and your licence lists Class 3/4	18
Class 4	• taxi, limousine, ambulance, bus up to 24 passengers, special activity buses, handicapped bus • permits you to drive Class 5 vehicles	18
Class 5	• two-axle vehicles including cars, trucks and tow trucks that weigh up to 11,000 kg. by itself or when towing another vehicle or trailer under 4,550 kg. • motorcycles 50 cc and under, construction vehicles, ATVs, snowmobiles and off-road vehicles • **novice stage drivers, please refer to additional GDL restrictions and conditions** • a full-privilege Class 5 licence is a learner's licence for all other licence classes	17.5

fast fact

A motor home with a registered gross vehicle weight (GVW) of over 11,000 kg requires a Class 3 licence to operate.

Class	Typical vehicles	Minimum age
Class 6	• motorcycles and mopeds	17.5
Class 7	• permits the learner to operate vehicles in Class 5 and 6 • to get a Class 7 licence, you need to go through the GDL program; see chapter 9	15
Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 heavy trailer endorsement	• trailers or towed vehicles over 4,550 kg. • no air brakes • trailer or towed vehicle must not exceed the vehicle's safe towing capacity	18

Air brakes

To operate vehicles equipped with air brakes on a highway (other than a vehicle defined as a construction vehicle), you must have a Yukon driver's licence with an air brake endorsement (code 15).

Snowmobiles, ATVs and off-road vehicles

Drivers of all off-road vehicles must be at least 16 and have a Class 5 driver's licence in order to operate an off-road vehicle on, beside or across any roadway or publicly accessible trail. In addition, the machine must be insured and licensed.

Contact Motor Vehicles to ensure you are up to date on any changes to the Yukon's requirements for off road vehicles. Also check municipal bylaws before using off-road vehicles anywhere inside a municipality's boundaries.

Restrictions

Restrictions, such as wearing adequate vision correction, driving in a limited area or only during daylight hours, may be placed on your licence for many reasons. Restrictions are listed as condition code numbers on your driver's licence. For information about restrictions or removal of a restriction, contact your nearest Motor Vehicles office.

Most restrictions are applied by Motor Vehicles. In addition, a parent or legal guardian can request restrictions on your licence while you are under 18. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles will consider all such requests and may place the requested restrictions on your licence.

fast fact

A Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 driver's licence permits towing trailers weighing up to 4,550 kg. Some recreational and light duty industrial trailers exceed this weight. To tow them you need:

- a Class 1 licence OR
- a Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 licence with a heavy trailer endorsement
- a road test is required.

Responsibilities

Protecting your driver's licence

As a licence-holder, you have legal responsibilities. Having a Yukon driver's licence is a privilege, not a right. You must insure your vehicle and drive safely to protect yourself and other road users.

Do...

- carry your licence every time you drive
- keep your licence current; notify Motor Vehicles if you change your name or address.

Don't...

- lend your licence to anyone else
- use a licence that isn't valid
- alter your licence in any way.

Identity theft and driver licence fraud

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in North America. Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information without your knowledge or consent to commit a crime, such as fraud or theft. Victims of identity theft suffer financial loss, a poor credit rating and a damaged reputation.

A driver's licence has become a widely accepted and trusted form of identification. If your driver's licence is stolen, obtained by fraud, scanned or faked, it can be used as a tool for committing crime.

You can't entirely control whether you become a victim of identity theft, but you can take steps to minimize your risk.

Protecting you from fraud

There's a tough new penalty to help protect you from people who commit driver's licence and identification card fraud. People who commit these offences now face fines of between $400 and $20,000, up to six months in prison, or both.

Offences covered by the law include:

- making false or misleading statements, failing to disclose required information, presenting or using false records or fraudulently using records to obtain or try to obtain a driver's licence or identification card
- assisting someone to falsely obtain or try to get a driver's licence or identification card in the ways mentioned above

- using or possessing a driver's licence or identification card that belongs to someone else
- allowing someone else to borrow, use or possess your driver's licence or identification card
- using or having a fake or invalid driver's licence or identification card
- altering a driver's licence or identification card.

Strategies: Preventing identity theft and driver licence fraud

- Keep your driver's licence with you in a secure place. Don't put your licence in a large pocket or in a large or open purse where it may easily be stolen or fall out. Never leave it in plain view inside your vehicle.
- Store your driver's licence in a safe place when you're not operating a vehicle. Don't leave your licence lying around, particularly where strangers can easily see it.
- Make sure to get your driver's licence back right away after you use it for identification, such as in a store. Don't leave it as a security deposit; it contains valuable personal information that could be stolen.
- Keep a list of your identification, including your driver's licence and credit cards, in a safe place in your home. Include card numbers and phone numbers of the card issuers so that you can notify them if cards are lost or stolen.
- If you lose your driver's licence, report the loss to the police and Motor Vehicles right away.
- If you are a victim of identity theft, in addition to notifying the police and Motor Vehicles, report the incident to PhoneBusters' National Call Centre at1-888-495-8501 (toll-free).

note

Remember, it's your identity; protect it!

Medical requirements

Medical reports are required for Class 1, 2, 3 and 4 licences:

- on initial licence application and on renewal;
- every five years to age 45;
- every three years from age 45 to age 65;
- annually at 65 and over.

Medical reports for Class 5, 6 and 7 licences are not required until you reach age 70. A medical report is required again at 75, and again at 80, and then every two years after that.

The law requires you to report any medical condition, change in health, or physical disability that may affect your driving. Doctors and optometrists are also required by law to report to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles if they feel that the health or vision of a person who has, or is applying for, a driver's licence may interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

note

If you are a pilot who already requires a medical for that purpose, contact your local Motor Vehicles office for information that may save you time and effort.

New Yukon residents

People who have recently moved to Yukon may use a valid driver's licence from outside of Yukon for the first four months they live in Yukon. You must, however, apply for your Yukon driver's licence and surrender your old licence within that four month time period. You may not hold two valid driver's licences.

A Canadian driver's licence from outside Yukon is accepted at the same class without testing. All applicants get a vision screening test. Applicants for a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 licence must provide a medical report. A medical report from another jurisdiction will be accepted if it is a valid motor vehicle medical report accepted by the home jurisdiction and it is dated within the last six months.

Tourists from any country can use a valid driver's licence for up to four months. Tourists who have an International Driver's Licence issued outside of Canada may use their licence in Yukon for four months or until the licence's expiry date, whichever occurs first.

New residents needing a licence should contact their nearest Motor Vehicles office listed on the back cover of this handbook.

note

If you are new to Yukon and want to apply for a full-privilege or a Novice Yukon driver's licence, you need to prove you have held a Novice licence for at least 18 months in a row. Present this proof when you first apply for your Yukon licence or you will be placed in Yukon's Graduated Licence program.

note

Drivers from other jurisdictions coming to Yukon will get credit for their driving experience in their original jurisdictions.

Retesting

A driver's licence in Yukon is valid for a period of five years.

You WILL be asked to re-test if:

- your licence has been expired for more than two years;
- your licence has been suspended, disqualified or cancelled for more than two years;
- you have let your Class licence 1, 2, 3 or 4 requirement for a medical lapse for more than two years.

You MAY be asked to re-test if:

- your driver's medical report indicates a health issue or problem;
- the police have informed Motor Vehicles that your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle may be in question;
- members of your family or the public at large have indicated in writing that your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle may be in question.

strategies: sharpen your skills

Here are some ways to help you keep sharp and up-to-date.

- Use feedback. Ask a friend to watch your driving and give you some suggestions for improvement.
- Know your vehicle. Make sure you know all the controls of any vehicle you drive. The owner's manual is a good place to start.
- Keep up with the driving guides. Pick up a copy of the current guide to make sure you are up-to-date.
- Take advanced training. You may decide to take a course in defensive driving skills or a refresher course.
- Know yourself. You may experience physical and mental changes that affect your driving. Be aware of your condition. Regular medical checkups will help.

Reclassifying your licence

When upgrading your licence to a class with more requirements, you must first pass a vision screening test and the knowledge test for that class of licence. You must pay your fee and book a road test. After passing the road test, you need to provide a medical report completed by a doctor.

A road test will be conducted in an air brake-equipped vehicle when you have proof that you have the right endorsement on your licence. You may take the air brake and road tests together. If you need to repeat the air brake test, the road test will not be conducted and you will need to make another appointment.

Keeping your licence up-to-date

If your licence is damaged or lost, you may apply for a replacement at any Motor Vehicles office.

It is your responsibility to renew your licence before it expires. A renewal notice is mailed to your registered address before the expiry date. If you do not receive your notice, contact Motor Vehicles.

To change your name or address on your driver's licence, visit your nearest Motor Vehicles office. Remember, you are required by law to notify Motor Vehicles of a name or address change for both your driver's licence and vehicle registration. You will

be required to properly identify yourself before any change, replacement or renewal can be performed. (See **chapter 9** for details.)

Driving without the proper class of driver's licence or with an expired licence is illegal. It is an offence for vehicle owners to permit operation of their vehicle by an unlicensed driver.

Driving in other locations

Do you like to travel? You need to be aware that rules, signs and traffic controls can change when you cross a border. If you drive in another country, particularly overseas, you may find yourself driving on the left side of the road, going around a complex roundabout or looking at unfamiliar traffic signs. To be a safe driver, think ahead and find out the driving rules of the area where you're travelling. You may be able to find out some information about driving in other jurisdictions from guidebooks or the Internet.

note

Check to make sure your vehicle insurance will cover you before you leave Canada.

Insuring your vehicle

As a driver, you must ensure that the vehicle you are driving has a valid and current licence plate as well as adequate insurance. Collision insurance is needed to help pay for vehicle damage and liability insurance is needed to cover damages to people.

note

Check with schools and your insurance company to learn how much liability insurance you need to transport other people's children.

Enforcement

The RCMP has authority under the *Motor Vehicles Act* to order you to stop your vehicle on the roadway or to pull your vehicle off the roadway if:

- you are considered to be breaking the law;
- your vehicle equipment does not meet Equipment Regulations under the *Motor Vehicles Act*; or
- a public road check campaign is being conducted.

warning!

The vehicle you are driving will likely be impounded by the police if you are caught driving without valid insurance or with expired registration.

Other peace officers have similar authority, including:

- municipal bylaw officers;
- highway and mobile safety enforcement officers; and
- other officers designated under the *Motor Vehicles Act*.

If an officer in uniform directs you to stop your vehicle, you must comply, and remain stopped until the officer allows you to proceed.

As a responsible driver, be courteous and respectful to a uniformed officer who has directed you to stop.

Outstanding fines

Be sure to pay all fines promptly. Any outstanding fines for moving violations will affect your ability to renew your driver's licence or may result in a driving suspension.

Penalties for unsafe driving

If you choose to drive unsafely, you could be fined and prohibited from driving. A prohibition means it is illegal for you to drive for a specific amount of time. If you are caught driving while you are prohibited, your vehicle could be impounded, and you may be subject to fines or a jail term. There is a fee to get your licence back after a suspension.

Demerit point system

Demerit points are recorded against a driver's licence for traffic offences. Driver convictions under the *Criminal Code of Canada* may result in 10 demerit points being recorded against a driver.

- If you receive 15 or more demerit points, your licence is suspended for one month.
- A second demerit suspension within one year results in a three-month licence suspension.
- Three or more demerit suspensions within two years results in a six-month licence suspension for each offence.
- During the GDL program, seven or more demerit points means your licence is suspended for one month, and for two months on a second (or more) demerit suspension.
- When a demerit point suspension has been served, your licence is reinstated with seven demerit points, or three points in the case of GDL. These points remain on your record for two years after you complete your driving suspension.
- If you successfully complete a defensive driving course, you may be entitled to have up to three points removed from your driving record.

The only appeal of a demerit point suspension is if you can prove that the demerit points were assigned in error. You may request a review of your driving record on these grounds by contacting the Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles at 667-5315.

warning!

If you drive without a valid driver's or learner's licence, or without the proper licence class, or contrary to licence restrictions or conditions, you could breach your insurance coverage. If you are in an accident, your insurance claim may be denied and you could be responsible for all costs associated with the crash.

crash fact

Impaired driving remains one of the major causes of crashes. It kills hundreds of people each year and thousands more are injured.

Penalties for impaired driving

No matter where you live in Canada, if you are charged with an impaired driving offence, you will be charged under the *Criminal Code of Canada*. If you are convicted in Yukon, you will also face penalties under the Yukon *Motor Vehicles Act*. Like Yukon, other Canadian jurisdictions have their own territorial or provincial laws dealing with impaired driving. So, if you drink and drive anywhere in Canada, you will have to deal with both the federal and the territorial (or provincial) laws.

Impaired driving offences are criminal charges; they're not treated lightly. The penalties range from heavy fines to long jail terms. In every case, these offences include a court order that prohibits a convicted person from operating any kind of vehicle, anywhere in Canada, for a set period of time.

Under the Yukon *Motor Vehicles Act*, a federal driving prohibition also results in the convicted person being disqualified from holding a Yukon driver's licence. The disqualification can be for a much longer period of time than the court-ordered prohibition.

More information about disqualifications

think about

Not beinga ble to drive for a long time. If a prohibition from the court is for three months and the licence disqualification is for one year, after three months, the court-ordered prohibition would be over but there would still be nine months left to serve on the *Motor Vehicles Act* disqualification.

In addition to the penalties applied by the judge under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles will also order a licence disqualification and will set certain conditions for getting the licence back. A Yukon disqualification period is served at the same time as the court-ordered prohibition.

When Motor Vehicles receives a summary of a driver's conviction, the person's driving record is reviewed. An appropriate disqualification time period and certain conditions are set that must be fulfilled before the person's driving licence is reinstated, and before the person may drive.

Driving while prohibited or disqualified after an impaired driving or related conviction

If you think it is worth the risk, you may become one of the foolish drivers who will be caught this year trying to beat the system. If you are caught driving a vehicle while you are prohibited or disqualified, you will be heavily fined or even go to jail. Jail terms for this offence are common.

In addition, another "impaired driving" charge will be levied against you. This will seriously affect your future driving privileges. Think about it. If you are convicted of driving while already under a one-year licence disqualification, you will be disqualified from driving for an additional three years. If you are convicted again while under a driving disqualification, you will be disqualified from ever again holding a Yukon driver's licence.

Yukon, in cooperation with all the provincial and territorial law enforcement agencies, has put in place several programs to identify and catch people who flaunt the law by continuing to drive without a licence. These programs are proving to be very effective. Two such programs are the 90-Day Roadside Suspension and the Vehicle Impoundment programs.

fast fact

If you drive while prohibited, you may face significant penalties including a stiff fine and jail.

Other costs of impaired driving

Besides the penalties listed above, there are still other costs if you are caught driving while impaired.

Insurance — if you are convicted of impaired driving and you cause a crash, your insurance claim could be denied, including claims for your own injuries, or damage you cause to your vehicle, or to other people or property. You could be responsible for paying all these costs. As well, your insurance rates may increase.

Money — to get your licence back you may have to take a remedial driving program and then have an ignition interlock device installed in any vehicle that you drive. You'd pay the costs for both of these measures.

Job — an impaired driving conviction can prevent you from holding certain jobs. Being unable to drive a vehicle may cause you to lose your job.

Travel —an impaired conviction could create problems for you when travelling to certain countries, including the Unites States and Mexico.

Offence	Possible penalties
Driving while impaired	• Immediate 24-hour driving suspension. Your vehicle may be impounded for 24 hours. You pay for towing and storing your vehicle. • You may be prohibited from driving if a police officer considers your ability to drive to be affected by alcohol or drugs, even if your blood alcohol content (BAC) is under .08. • 90-day roadside driving suspension. • If charged and found guilty under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, you will: – lose your licence under the Motor Vehicles Act for a year (first conviction) – be fined – be prohibited from driving. • You could also go to jail. • You'll be required to take a remedial driving program and may be required to have an ignition interlock device installed in vehicles you drive after completing the remedial program. • Drivers with three or more vehicle-related *Criminal Code of Canada* convictions will have their licences suspended indefinitely.

Registrar suspensions

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles may suspend a driver's licence for reasons such as a poor driving record, failure to pay a fine, medical grounds and failure to pay overdue fines.

Getting your licence back

If you appear in court for an impaired driving charge and are convicted, your licence disqualification takes effect right away.

A Notice of Disqualification will be sent to you by registered mail to the last recorded address on your licence.

Read your notice carefully. It contains conditions that must be met after an impaired driving conviction, including completion of the remedial driving program and payment of the licence reinstatement fee.

A disqualification remains in effect until you meet all of the conditions listed on the Notice of Disqualification. This applies, as well, to drivers who have left Yukon.

note

Be sure your licence shows your current address. It is your responsibility to keep Motor Vehicles informed when you change your address. Don't rely on the post office to have your mail re-routed.

Vehicle impoundment

If you drive a vehicle while you are unlicensed or impaired, the police can impound the vehicle on the spot, for a minimum of 30 days. The owner must pay for the vehicle to be towed and stored.

During the next five years, if any vehicle registered to the same owner is impounded for another offence, the police can impound the vehicle for 60 days or more.

It's important for vehicle owners to understand that they are responsible for making sure that only licensed drivers use their vehicles. For example, if an employer allows a prohibited or unlicensed driver to use of a company vehicle, the vehicle could be impounded.

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Yukon Driver's Basic Handbook
Cars and Light Trucks

Licensing information

Contact your nearest Yukon Motor Vehicles office to get information on licence classifications and requirements.

For general information call:

- Whitehorse, 667-5315
- toll-free throughout Yukon: 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5315

Booking road tests

- Whitehorse, 667-5315
- other communities, contact the territorial agents or territorial representatives

Yukon Territorial Agents

Dawson City Liquor Store, 993-5348

Faro Liquor Store, 994-2724

Haines Junction Liquor Store, 634-2201

Mayo Liquor Store, 996-2276

Watson Lake Liquor Store, 536-7311

Yukon Territorial Representatives

Carmacks Community Housing Office, 863-6411

Carcross Community Housing Office, 821-4281

Teslin Community Housing Office, 390-2024

Old Crow, VGFN Office, 966-3261

Ross River Community Housing Office, 969-2347

Website addresses

- Visit Motor Vehicles, *www.hpw.gov.yk.ca/mv*
- Road Safety information, *www.hpw.gov.yk.ca*
- Yukon road report, *www.511yukon.ca*

Yukon
Highways and Public Works